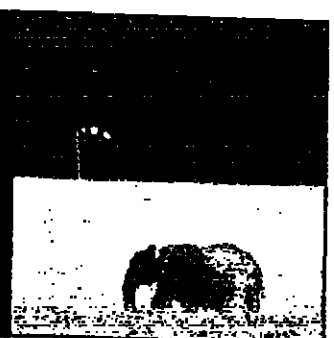
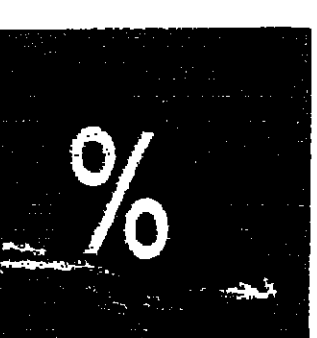


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Section 3  
Review  
Desmond Morris  
on modern man's  
undimmed tribal  
instincts



Section 4  
Sport  
Mixed fortunes  
for the stars of  
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LAST WEEK'S  
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# THE TIMES

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 1986

(30p)

## BP gives big jobs boost to Scotland

### Move from London to mean 200 extra staff

By Kerry Gill

A huge jobs boost for Glasgow was announced yesterday when BP Exploration said it intended moving almost 500 professional, managerial and technical staff from London to its Britoil headquarters in the city.

The relocation exercise will also mean up to 200 extra staff being recruited locally, almost doubling the total complement in Glasgow from 620 to 1,200.

BP took over Britoil earlier this year after a bitter battle for the Glasgow-based group with Atlantic Richfield. There were fears in Scotland that a takeover by BP would mean jobs being lost in Scotland.

BP promised that the transfer would begin this autumn and be completed within 12 months.

Mr John Saint, chief executive of Britoil, said most people in the oil industry expected travel in the work

and would adapt well to Glasgow.

"A lot of people will be excited to get out of the seething mass that is London. I moved here five months ago and I am really enjoying it."

The decision comes in the wake of a study of organization and location within the group.

An office is to be established at BP's London headquarters to give relocated staff

There was further encouraging employment news for Scotland yesterday when a £1.7 million building contract at the top-secret Clyde Submarine Base, creating about 50 jobs, was announced.

Britoil takeover.....4

information and advice about Glasgow and Scotland. Staff who do not want to move north will be found posts with BP in London.

Mr Saint said that activity in Scotland would increase hugely as a result of the move. "The size of our headquarters in Glasgow will double. We will be a strategic business division. We have to stand up and be counted for our performance in London."

"The advantages are that we are closer to the main sphere of activity off-shore in Scotland. The disadvantage is that we are miles from from London and a lot of other major businesses are based there, as is the Department of Energy."

"But I find it takes me two hours to fly to London for a visit and that is as long as many people commute from

their homes in the country to a job in London", Mr Saint said.

Mr Saint, who is also chairman of BP Petroleum Development (NW Europe), said the move came as a result of BP's commitment during the takeover battle to make Britoil's Glasgow office the headquarters for the management of the combined BP and Britoil UK oil and gas exploration and production operations, and their Irish and Norwegian interests.

"Glasgow is to be our long-term headquarters", Mr Saint said.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, the Scottish Secretary of State, who is recovering from a hernia operation, said he believed the move was part of a wider trend in both public and private sectors to shift personnel from the South-east to other parts of the country.

Sir Robin Duthie, chairman of Britoil, said the transfer was a clear demonstration that BP intended to fulfil its commitment to Britoil made to the Treasury in February.

The numbers being moved to Glasgow are higher than even BP predicted at the beginning of the year when it said it would transfer a minimum of between 50 and 75 senior BP executives and highly qualified technical graduate staff to Scotland.

The thought of moving to Glasgow from the South-east would have sent shivers through most staff 10 years ago. Now, however, the city has been transformed into one of Europe's leading centres both socially and culturally.

## This is not cricket, umpire



Umpire Harold "Dickie" Bird at the rain-ridden Oval yesterday, wearing the mystified look which has decorated the faces of a few million cricket followers - and several rejected England captains - all summer. At least the cat appeared satisfied. Photograph: Chris Cole

## Kremlin hiding Armenia crisis from the world

From Christopher Walker, Yerevan

A Kremlin cover-up of massive proportions is concealing from the Soviet people and the world at large that the republic of Armenia is in a state of near rebellion against the central government in Moscow, with ethnic Russian troops on special duties because of the suspect loyalty of the local security forces.

The ethnic crisis, which began six months ago over demands for the return of Armenian control over the mountainous Nagorno-Karabakh region of Nagorno-Karabakh, is now expanding into a struggle against the communist system.

Twice in the past 15 days, angry crowds of over 200,000 people have gathered in front of Yerevan's 14-storey post office headquarters under the slogan "Struggle Until the End" to chant derision at local Party bosses and to demand a reversal of the Supreme Soviet's decision on July 18 to rule out boundary changes.

Disillusionment with Mr Gorbachev, once the hero of the nationalist campaigners, was illustrated in graphic fashion as protesters surged in tens of thousands down the city's main Lenin Avenue waving fists in the air and jeering at Soviet military helicopters overhead, now referred to here as "the swallows of perestroika". En route to the demonstrations, which the organizers told me will be held every Friday until Mr Gorbachev "sends in the tanks", the nationalists swept past the giant Opera House ringed by

at least 500 troops of the Soviet Army of the Interior manning white barricades.

Some of the demonstrators spat at the young Russian conscripts, conspicuous by their blond hair and uncomfortable in the police uniforms which disguised their military capability. "This is not Afghanistan," one of the Armenians shouted.

The weekly protests began at a triangular piece of park which has been renamed "Liberty Square" by the local Armenians. It is close to the

Seabed bug.....9

symbolic Opera building where more than one million protesters used to gather before the Kremlin's new hardline policy, but which is now out of bounds to them.

At most hours of every day, it is filled with scores or sometimes hundreds of Armenians heatedly debating the ethnic problem, conducting open political argument about Mr Gorbachev's policies, exhibiting anti-government literature and canvassing support for a petition which now has nearly one million signatures for a reversal of the July 18 decision.

The square provides a perfect explanation of why Mr Gorbachev and his Politburo colleagues have made a mockery of glasnost by forbidding any Western newsmen from entering Armenia since February, and suppressing all accurate news from the official Soviet media.

Continued on page 16, col 1

## Suzman sees Mandela

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Mrs Helen Suzman, the veteran parliamentary anti-apartheid campaigner, yesterday was allowed to visit Nelson Mandela for an hour in the private clinic where he is being treated for tuberculosis.

It was the first time she had seen Mandela since May, 1986, despite several requests. "We talked for an hour

from 1 to 2 pm in the small sitting-room of his suite without a prison official present."

Although the prison authorities insist that Mandela's status has not changed since his transfer to the private Constantiaberg clinic, the relaxed circumstances of Mrs Suzman's visit suggest a new more lenient approach.

WIN £182,000

## Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

● The Portfolio Accumulator continues to climb. The £4,000 daily prize was shared by two people yesterday (see page 3) and the Accumulator fund now stands at £182,000. In addition, there is the £8,000 weekly prize to be won today.  
Prices: pages 23

## INSIDE

**Pernod talks**  
Pernod-Ricard, the French drinks group, confirmed it is holding bid talks with Irish Distillers.....Page 17

**Village Voice**  
Returning to a remote Himalayan village, a young man who migrated to town brings back strange ways.....Page 8

**Degree results**  
Degrees awarded by York University are published today.....Page 14

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## Base rate increase fears grow

By David Smith  
Economics Correspondent

Growing pessimism on the pound and the balance of payments added to fears of higher interest rates in the City yesterday, and the Bank of England was forced to intervene to support sterling.

Dealers fear the pound could fall further in the next few days, possibly forcing Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, to act again. Money market rates hardened and are pointing to a half-point rise in base rates from 12 per cent.

The stock market recovered some of its losses of the past fortnight. The FT-SE 100 index closed 16.4 points up at 1,746.9, at the day's best level.

Britain's gold and foreign currency reserves rose by an underlying \$827 million (£495 million) last month, partly because of payments on BP shares by US and Canadian investors. Details, page 17

## First poll tax fines issued to defaulters

By Kerry Gill

The first fines for refusing to complete community charge registration forms in Scotland's biggest region were issued yesterday.

Over the next three weeks Strathclyde, which has about half the Scottish population, expects to issue several hundred penalties.

Mr Jack Wood, the region's registration officer, said he and his staff had done their utmost to leave the imposition of fines to the last, but with registration having to be completed by next month, they had no alternative.

No names have been issued as defaulters legally have 28 days to appeal to a sheriff court. Mr Wood, however, said that even at this late stage anyone faced with the £50 fine could have their case reconsidered if they returned their completed form.

Ninety per cent of the more than 900,000 forms have been returned to Mr Wood's office,

which still leaves tens of thousands of forms unaccounted for. However, it is clear that most of the non-returned forms are probably lying forgotten at the back of drawers. This week, canvassers went to 70 homes in which people had not registered. Every one either filled in the form at once or promised to send it in within days.

The number of people fined could amount to several thousand, but Mr Wood said that non-registration could mean defaulters incurring fines well in excess of the poll tax itself.

If the initial £50 fine is not paid, it will be followed up by a £200 fine at monthly intervals.

● Sit-in call: The Labour leadership's attitude towards payment of the poll tax was challenged yesterday when the movement's unofficial black section urged people not to pay it and to take part in sit-ins at town halls.

## FBI want suspect

FBI officials have been hunting Terence McGeough, one of the two suspected IRA men held by West German police this week, for six years across Europe. He is wanted for trial in New York after an undercover operation against gun-runners.

McGeough has been sighted by informants or intelligence sources on a number of occasions.

Spectrum.....14

sions. FBI agents were told but each time he either evaded capture or the FBI decided extradition would be too difficult.

McGeough vanished from the United States six years ago and Federal agents believe the man in a German prison is their target. He has the same name and date of birth as the man missing from the United States. FBI officials are awaiting records to confirm the identification.

## Gales fear as insurers face record bill

Peter Mulligan and Andrew Morgan

Strong winds causing structural damage are expected today across much of the country, while insurance companies are still receiving claims for damage from last October's gales. They face a record £1 billion payout.

A spokesman for Royal Insurance said: "It is exceptional. We are now 10 months after the event. We have never experienced this sort of thing before." He added that 89 per cent of the 169,000 claims to his company had been settled but others were still "dribbling in".

Gales are likely today along coasts of north-west England, western Scotland and southern England. Temperatures of 60°F to 65°F are likely, but lower in Scotland where they could fall to 52°F. The winds are due to a depression off

the west coast of Scotland. It should bring rain to many parts and it will be followed by another depression from the south-west. However, eastern areas should be relatively dry with light winds.

Normally, claims resulting from gales would be settled within about three months, but delays were caused by a

shortage of builders and a shortage of materials.

Royal Insurance said: "We still hear from people when we check to hear how claims are going on, that there is a shortage of bricks and tiles, particularly in the South-East."

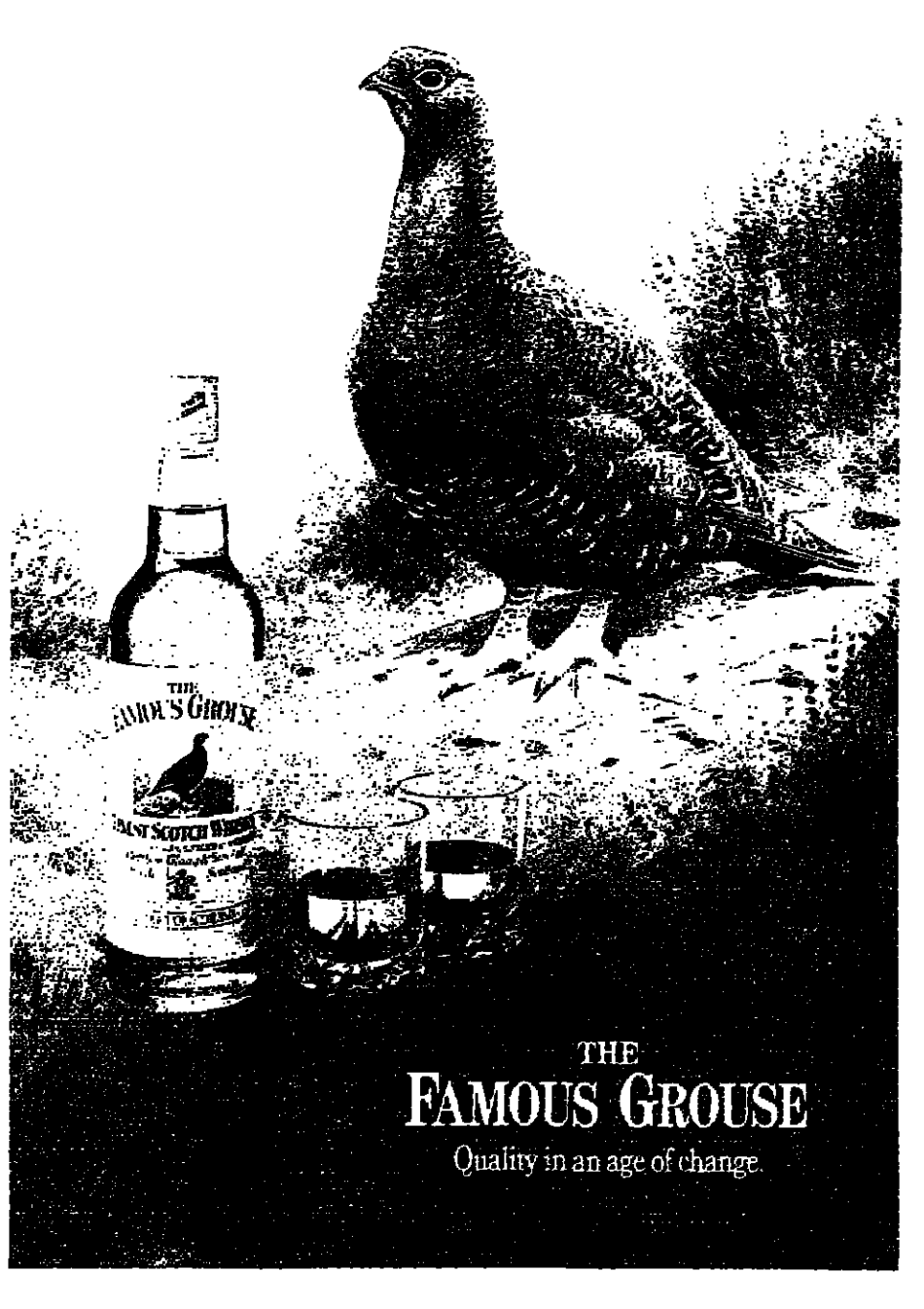
One theft claim was paid to householders in the Midlands who had

returned home to find their roof-tiles missing. It is thought the tiles were used on a hurricane-damaged house in the south.

A spokesman for Norwich Union said that between 50 and 100 claims for hurricane damage were arriving weekly.

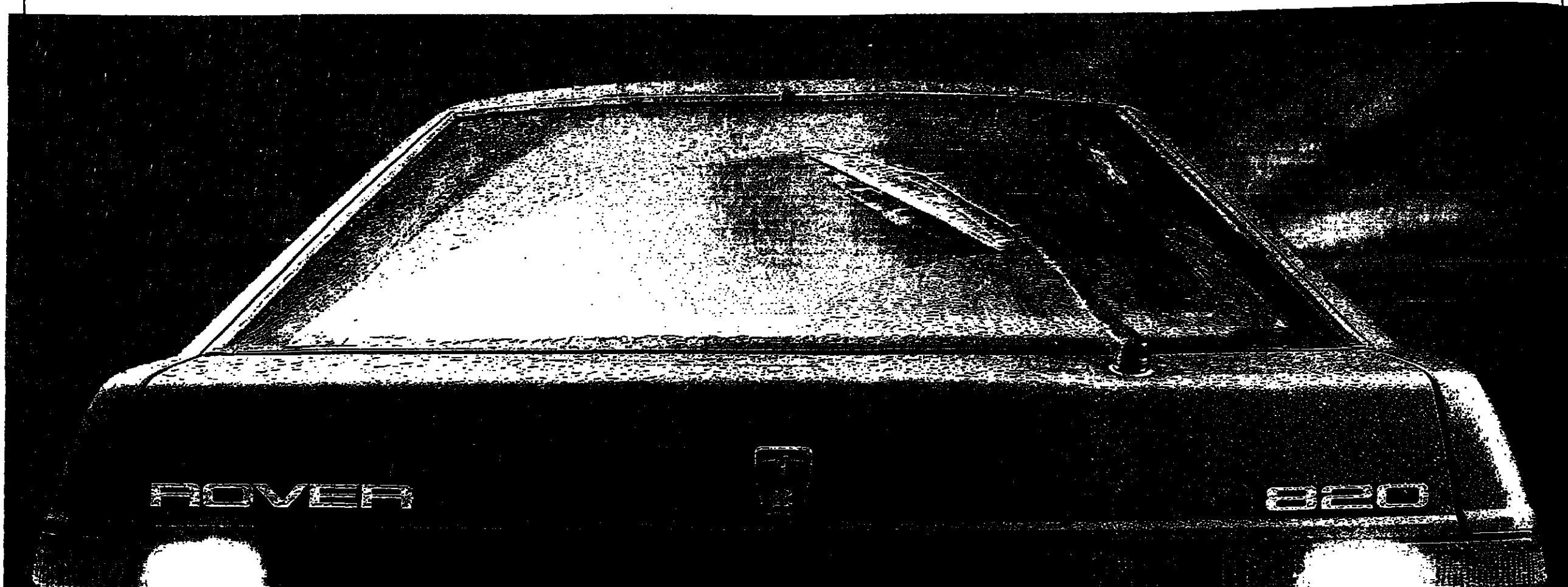
Prudential Assurance said that it had paid £43 million for gale damage. Of this £10 million was a direct loss to the company and the rest was re-insured.

A spokesman for the Association of British Insurers said that its most recent pay-out figure, from February, was £835 million for property damage and £25 million for motor policies, covering such things as cars crushed by fallen trees. Taking into account damage to uninsured property, it had then been expected that the total would be more than £1 billion.



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Outside temperature is something you can never be sure of in this not-so temperate isle. The five thousand watt heater can take the inside temperature of the 820 from a bitter  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $+20^{\circ}\text{C}$  in minutes.

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# Waking children nightly for a week may improve sleep

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A new treatment, which avoids the use of drugs, is reported today for children who sleepwalk and suffer bouts of night terror.

The method depends simply on showing parents how to predict an episode of terror, and to waken the child 10 to 15 minutes before it occurs every day for a week.

No other instructions are needed to establish a normal, healthy pattern of sleep.

Dr Bryan Lask, consultant psychiatrist, from the department of psychological medicine, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children, London, describes the development of the treatment in the *British Medical Journal*. It was devised for 19 children between the age of five to 13, and consisting of 11 boys and eight girls.

They were referred to the hospital for treatment for night terrors, but they were found to have no physical abnormality or psychiatric disorder and they were of average or above average intelligence.

The episodes had lasted for between four and 37 months, and generally occurred four to five nights a week.

Night terrors are characterized by screaming, extreme

distress and excessive restlessness.

Although children grow out of the condition within a few years, treatment is indicated because of the intense distress experienced by parents and the danger, when sleepwalking is involved, for children.

Dr Lask says night terrors affect about 3 per cent of children, often occurring every night.

The child cannot be comforted or woken and has no memory of the episodes the next day.

The attacks are believed to represent a fault in the slow wave sleep rhythm of the body.

A wide range of drugs has been suggested as treatment. But Dr Lask says behavioural alteration of the sleep pattern has not been considered seriously.

In developing the treatment, parents were asked to note for five successive nights at what time the episodes occur, and whether there were signs of increased restlessness, sweating, and faster breathing and heartbeat.

They were then advised to wake their child fully 10 to 15 minutes before the end of the period of sleep at which a night terror occurred or, if this

was too difficult to specify, when they confirmed signs of arousal.

In each case the night terrors stopped within a week of starting treatment. In three cases terrors returned four to seven weeks later, but were completely eliminated by restoration of treatment for another week.

A follow-up of the children one year later showed that there had been no further relapses.

One boy aged nine had developed intermittent headaches for which no organic cause can be found, but which were cured by relaxation twice a day. A girl of 11 had developed a phobia about school four months after treatment, and this was satisfactorily treated with the help of her parents in a gradual return to school over three weeks.

Dr Lask says the successful elimination of night terrors by behavioural alteration of the sleep pattern shows that treatment with drugs, which has not been proved to be effective, is unnecessary.

Interruption of faulty slow wave sleep seems to cause reversion to a normal sleep pattern, and this technique may also be used for sleepwalking alone, he says.

## Judges' novel approach



Andrea Livingstone and Patrice Ealey cataloguing entries (Photograph: Alan Weller).

By Andrew Billen

A long autumn of reading lies ahead for the 15 judges of the annual Whitbread Book Competition. Entries closed yesterday with a near-record 400 titles having been submitted by publishers. The number, doubtless encouraged by an increase in total prize money to £27,500, means each judge will have to have read about 24 books by late October. The judging is supervised by the Booksellers' Association.

Owen Hickey, page 10  
Letters, page 11

Ms Andrea Livingstone, assistant director of the association, yesterday began the task of sending copies to judges. The competition is divided into five categories — first novel, novel, poetry, children's, and biography — with a £1,500 prize in each category. The category winners will be named on November 8 and the Book of the Year, worth a further £20,000, will be announced on January 24. Judges this year include Miss Fay Weldon, the novelist, Miss Wendy Cope, the poet, and Mr John Parry, of BBC Radio News.

## Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

### Second holiday in sun

A woman biochemist is heading for a second holiday in the sun after winning a share in *The Times Portfolio* competition.

Mrs Lucia Kasprisz, who works for a hospital in Surrey, went to Ibiza in the spring.

She said: "My son is in Poland on his own holiday so

I do not expect he will go with me. Otherwise I do not know how I shall spend it, but it's very nice to have."

Mrs Kasprisz, of Yarn Court Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, shared the daily prize of £4,000 with M L Gohill of Rothesay Avenue, Greenford, Middlesex.

### Job case victory

## Loyal worker's brutal dismissal

An industrial tribunal in Glasgow has labelled as "disgraceful" the manner in which a conscientious and competent manager with almost 30 years service was told his services were no longer required.

It said Mr Andrew Innes, construction director of Babcock Energy Ltd, had broken the news to Mr Kenneth Broomfield, aged 59, in an "unacceptably brutal and harsh" way.

The tribunal also referred to the "arrogant" manner in which Mr Innes had given his evidence to them, and the way in which he had "sniggered and sneered" in the tribunal room. Judging by this behaviour it was not to be wondered at that Mr Broomfield had suffered so acutely at the time of his dismissal.

The tribunal's strongly worded remarks were made in a written judgement, in which it found that Mr Broomfield, of Shillingworth Place, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, had been unfairly dismissed in March.

Making no compensatory award to Mr Broomfield, the tribunal regretted it had been forced to this view because the redundancy would not have been unfair if carried out correctly, and taking into ac-

count the amount of compensation, in the form of an early retirement package, already paid.

The tribunal had earlier been told that the firm's parent company, FKI Babcock, had indicated that the energy company's management team should be reduced from nine to seven.

Mr Innes decided to invite Mr Broomfield to take early retirement and broke the news to him on a Friday.

Mr Innes, he said, had told him that he did not want him in the management team.

Mr Broomfield had been shocked and had not found the offer attractive, and Mr Innes had indicated that the package could perhaps be increased by £3,000, and that consideration could be given to a financial payment in lieu of a 30-year service award due in July.

Mr Broomfield said he was given until the following Monday to reply. If he did accept the package by then, it would be taken away and he would be made redundant. He had felt obliged to accept.

Finding unanimously in favour of Mr Broomfield, the tribunal said the dismissal was so procedurally inept as to render it unfair.

## Christmas rape ordeal

A woman who was raped seven times during a nine-hour Christmas Day ordeal did not think she would survive to tell of the incident, Judge Frank Smedley, QC, told the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

The victim, a betting shop manager aged 27, was threatened with death at the point of a screwdriver and

infected with a venereal disease by one of her assailants.

Michael Wallace, aged 25, a carpenter, of Washington Avenue, Manor Park, east London, was jailed for 10 years and Christopher Straker, aged 25, security guard, of Dawlish Avenue, Seven Kings, Ilford, for eight years on charges of rape and kidnapping.

### Trauma conference

## Villagers are still haunted by Red Arrows crash

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Nine months after two Red Arrow jets crashed into their community many of the residents of a small English village are still haunted and divided by their narrow escape from death, researchers said yesterday.

The wing tips of the two Hawk jets touched during an aerobatic exercise over the village of Welton near Lincoln, sending both aircraft out of control while their pilots ejected to safety. One plane demolished a house and damaged two others. The second crashed into a nearby field.

Although nobody was killed or seriously injured the incident has left deep psychological scars on many of the villagers, according to researchers who interviewed more than a hundred. Many have nightmares and are constantly anxious about the risk of

another air crash. Since the accident three other Red Arrows planes have crashed within the vicinity, including one in which the pilot was killed.

"The village is restless, divided and uncertain about how to settle down and continue normal life", Mr Simon Laloe, one of the researchers, told the first European Conference on post-traumatic stress, organized in Lincoln by the British Psychological Society.

He and three colleagues from the psychology department of North Lincolnshire Health Authority found that many of the villagers suffered "acute and chronic reactions" to the crash.

"Some of them have been troubled every day since the disaster. It severely shook many people. Some have had their lives shattered and are

still trying to repair them. Many of the people became haunted by their own memories of the accident", Mr Laloe said.

The researchers found evidence that the accident had damaged the community spirit of the village. About half of the 4,000 villagers had some connection with the nearby base of RAF Scampton and were strongly defensive about the Red Arrow pilots. But others who had nothing to do with the base had often voiced their concern about the low-level aerobatic exercises.

Mr Laloe told the conference: "We were warmly and sometimes enthusiastically welcomed when we conducted our interviews."

"But there was a sizeable number who didn't want to talk to us and

thought we were stirring things up. Those who have vehemently disliked our presence were those who were in some way attached to the RAF base."

The villagers least concerned about the accident had either served in the Armed Forces or were connected with them.

Some of the older villagers scorned offers of psychological help from the health authority.

"They said they had lived through World War Two without assistance and didn't see what the fuss about the crash had to do with them", Mr Laloe said.

Twenty per cent of those interviewed had mixed feelings of relief that nobody had been killed, and anger that the crash had happened.

### Farnborough Air Show

## Russian condor swoops to conquer

By Harvey Elliott  
Air Correspondent

Dominating the parking area at the edge of the runway at Farnborough airfield for the next seven days will be the giant Antonov AN-124 transporter, the world's biggest aircraft.

The condor, as the four-engined jet aircraft is known to Nato, flew in this week to provide back-up for two MiG 29 fighters which will perform throughout the week, both as entertainment for the 300,000 who are expected to attend and to try to convince Third World visitors that they should invest in Russian technology.

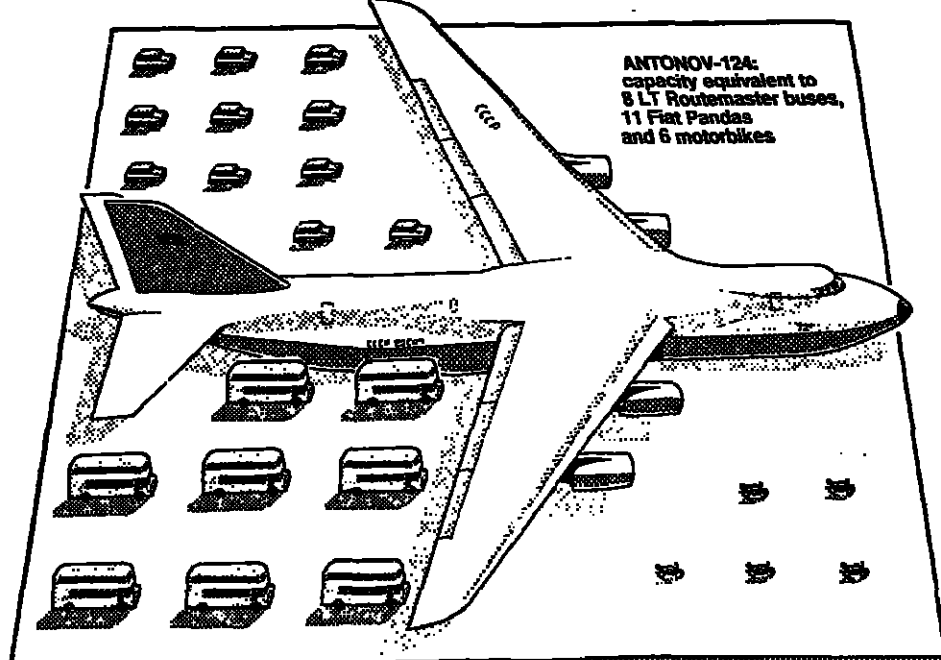
The AN-124 is so big that its cargo hold could contain eight London Transport Routemaster buses, 11 Fiat Panda cars and six motorbikes.

It is normally used to ferry SS-20 missiles or heavy equipment around the Soviet Union's army and air force bases.

But this week it will be open to the thousands of aviation enthusiasts who are expected to pour into Farnborough to watch the AN-124 and hundreds of other aircraft on display, both in the air and on the ground.

With a wingspan of 240ft 5½ins and a length of 226ft 8½ins, it is bigger than the giant American Galaxy.

Its cargo hold measures 118ft by 21ft and is 14ft 5½ins high. Because of its enormous size and weight — fully laden it



weighs nearly 400 tons — it needs 24 landing wheels, which enable it to operate from unprepared fields, hard-packed snow and ice-covered swampland.

It carries 50,000 gallons of fuel — enough to drive a small car for more than two million miles, or four round trips to the moon.

Depending on the amount of cargo it is carrying, the Condor can fly up to 10,250 miles non-stop or 2,795 miles when fully laden.

It has a cargo capacity of 147 tonnes, which is loaded through its hinged nose.

Although it will undoubtedly be the non-flying centre

of attraction, the main interest in the air will centre on the MiG 29s which it has come to support.

Known to Nato as Fulcrum, the MiG is the latest Russian fighter and has not before been seen in the West.

The MiG pilots will seek to show off the aircraft's abilities to many of the West's top military pilots.

But they will be hard pressed to match the sheer brilliance of the "fly-by-wire" technology of the new Western jets such as the Rafale, Mirage 2000, F16 and F18, which have already shown they can do things the Russians cannot even contem-

plate. The Western pilots will know that the Russians, too, are watching, and are certain to put their machines through every manoeuvre permitted.

Safety will be the major issue throughout the show and at a briefing last night every pilot was given another warning that, in the wake of the tragedy at the Ramstein air base in which 47 spectators were killed, no deviation from the strict rules laid down by the flying committee will be tolerated.

The Red Arrows are expected to put on their usual display of high speed aerobatics with only a few minor modifications.

## Aero park venture unveiled

By Christopher Warman  
Property Correspondent

A £125 million aerospace and business park is to be built at the Royal Aerospace Establishment at Farnborough in conjunction with the Ministry of Defence, it was announced on the eve of the Farnborough Air Show yesterday.

The scheme, the UK's first integrated aerospace and business park, is intended to make fuller use of the establishment. It will provide 725,000 sq ft of business accommodation on a 50-acre site within the establishment's perimeter, and modern facilities for business aircraft, both fixed-wing and helicopters.

The Farnborough Aerospace Development Corporation, set up by the Carroll group of companies to develop the park, said yesterday that there was an urgent need for an alternative to the congested London airports at Heathrow and Gatwick. The development will include a new terminal building, and the project should take between seven and 10 years.

The idea for such a scheme was envisaged in a government White Paper in 1985.

Air Marshall Sir Ivor Broom, chairman of the new development corporation, said the sophisticated air services offered to business aircraft, together with excellent road and rail communications to central London, provided the aerospace business park with an unrivalled advantage.

### Skiing safety

## Warning signs inconsistent

By Andrew Moger

Skiers are at risk because there is no international system for grading the severity of slopes, according to a British guide to European resorts published today.

The occasional holiday skier, the mainstay of British winter tourism abroad, in particular is in danger of being caught out when he moves between countries using different colour-code markers along pistes.

The *Good Skiing Guide* 1989 produced by the Consumers' Association says: "Ski resorts should give a higher priority to safety, and especially the safety of holiday skiers unfamiliar with local runs." Mr Chris Gill, the guide's editor, adds: "A green run in one resort will be virtually flat, in another it may present real difficulties for first-week skiers."

Even advanced skiers are left uncertain by inconsistency

between marking systems because there are a wide range of terms to describe "off-piste" areas away from the main runs.

"Although in many respects a nonchalant nation, the French are generally much more helpful in providing information and warning about difficult pistes and off-piste runs."

The *Good Skiing Guide* 1989 (Consumers' Association, PO Box 44, Hemford SG14 1SH, £9.95).

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**LAST DAY TOMORROW**



NEWS ROUNDUP

## Currie eclipses Thatcher's men

The men in Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet have been eclipsed by Mrs Edwina Currie, Under Secretary of State for Health, who has been an MP for only five years and a minister for two.

The voluble Mrs Currie is the most recognizable Conservative politician after the Prime Minister, while the second most recognized, according to a MORI poll, is Mr Michael Heseltine, who resigned from the Cabinet in 1986.

Mrs Currie was recognized by 78 per cent of people shown her photograph. Mr Heseltine (64 per cent), was followed by Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer (60 per cent), Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Energy (60 per cent), and Mr Norman Tebbit, the former party chairman (57 per cent).

The survey, published in *The Economist*, showed 46 per cent recognized Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, and 44 per cent identified Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary. Mr John Major, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, was recognized by just 2 per cent.

## £400m sulphur plant

The Department of Energy has approved plans by the Central Electricity Generating Board to build the world's largest sulphur removal plant at its Drax power station in North Yorkshire. The £400 million plant, the first of its type, will cut sulphur dioxide emissions from the large coal-fired power station by 90 per cent, removing almost 250,000 tonnes of the chemical a year from the power station flue gases.

## Equity video deal

Equity, the actors' union, is on the brink of securing an agreement over the use of its members in music videos. After six years of discussions between the union and the British Phonographic Industry, which represents record producers, the deal is set to be approved by the union next week. It will mean members performing in music videos earn a minimum of £136.50 per day.

## Patients get their say

Four hundred patients at the Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy, Fife, are being given the chance to say what they think of the health service. They are being asked what they think of the food, whether they are allowed to get enough rest, and they can also give their opinion of medical staff. Dr Donald Coid, community medicine specialist for acute services with Fife Health Board, said: "Private companies do this sort of thing all the time. I feel the NHS should be consumer-sensitive and I would like to think that in four or five years this will not be a novel idea."

## Garden festival record

The Glasgow Garden Festival became a record-breaker yesterday when the number of visitors exceeded the 3.4 million set by Liverpool's festival four years ago - and the Glasgow festival still has 24 days to run. More than 30,000 performers have taken part and visitors have consumed 100 tons of chips, 350,000 hamburgers, 75,000 gallons of soft drinks and 300,000 pints of beer.

## How the mighty call

What is said to be the biggest working telephone in the world was set up by British Telecom in George Square, Glasgow, yesterday for a charity fund-raising event. The three-ton telephone, which the public can use in return for a donation, is built round a Ford Transit chassis and is 13 ft high by 15 ft wide, with its 10 ft handset hydraulically operated. Callers shout into a 3 ft diameter mouthpiece, with the replies amplified through a loudspeaker in the earpiece. The money raised will go to Action Research for the Crippled Child and the Scottish Spina Bifida Association.

## IRA activity kills Catholic dialogue

By Howard Foster

The dialogue between the predominantly Roman Catholic SDLP and Sinn Féin, which started nine months ago, has ended, it emerged from Northern Ireland yesterday.

As the first of two funeral services for the IRA terrorists killed near Omagh by the SAS was held in the Province, the political impasse between the two sides became public.

The news brought condemnation of the reconciliation attempt from Ulster Unionists and a call for the opening of new talks between the Protestant and Catholic political representatives in Northern Ireland from the Irish Republic.

The talks, aimed at stopping terrorism in Northern Ireland, had started in January. Secret meetings between Mr John Hume, the SDLP leader, and Mr Gerry Adams, Sinn Féin president, were held regularly but the potential reconciliation

foundered, apparently, over the fundamental issue of the support of Sinn Féin for the continuing terrorist violence of the IRA.

Neither party would confirm yesterday that the dialogue was over but senior officials from both sides are understood to be drafting statements for release some time next week.

Mr James Moynihan, the Ulster Unionist leader, said that the SDLP had caused "irretrievable damage" by rehabilitating the IRA through the dialogue at a time when world opinion had been against the terrorists after the Enniskillen Remembrance Day bombing.

Yesterday's funeral for the Harte brothers passed off without violence and the same strict security exercised will also be in place for the funeral today of the third man killed in the ambush, Brian Mullin, in County Tyrone.

## Engineers sign inflation-linked pay deal

By Roland Rudd  
Employment Affairs Reporter

The engineers' union warned left-led unions yesterday not to isolate the electricians from collective bargaining, after disclosing they had signed a single-union deal of the type that is threatening to split the TUC.

Mr Bill Jordan, president of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, said his union would be forced to retaliate and take "positive measures" to prevent such action against the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union.

Mr Jordan, speaking as union general secretaries meet in Bourne-mouth before the start of the TUC conference on Monday, also disclosed that the engineers had signed a single union strike-free agreement with Nancanco at its proposed £40 million

canning plant in Wakefield. The new agreement, coming only days before the TUC meets to outlaw compulsory arbitration deals, is one of the most revolutionary ever signed by a union.

It abolishes the annual pay round in favour of a permanent guarantee that the 200-strong workforce will be guaranteed an annual pay increase of 1 per cent above the rate of inflation, calculated by the retail price index.

Nancanco, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the American National Canning Company, based in Chicago, will manufacture cans next to the £60 million Coca Cola and Schweppes beverages plant on the same site in Wakefield, which is at the centre of a dispute between the engineers and the Transport and General Workers' Union.

The transport union, which is against the signing of the agreement, has referred the matter to the TUC, and it is now expected to go before a full hearing of the TUC disputes procedure.

But Mr Jordan, in a clear challenge to the TUC's authority, said: "We have got the deal fairly - it is not one we would relinquish. We will not allow it to go before the disputes procedure."

Mr Jordan also emphasized that his 850,000-member union will not take a "passive position" in the inter-union membership battle.

Intense rivalry is expected to break out after the anticipated expulsion of the electricians from the TUC next week.

The left-dominated transport workers' union and the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union (MSF) are

determined that the effects of the electricians' expulsion should be felt immediately.

They plan to exclude the electricians' union from any form of collective bargaining.

Only a minority of the electricians' membership is located in single-union plants. In most factories, the electricians are forced to negotiate with employers apart from other TUC-affiliated unions.

A private and confidential TGWU document shows the union is planning to tell employers that a "non-TUC union will no longer be party to negotiation, recognition procedures or agreements".

Employers are expected to oppose the strategy but in practice to put up with it rather than get dragged into inter-union disputes.

## Thousands of pupils still waiting for GCSE marks

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

An estimated 20,000 pupils throughout the country are still awaiting GCSE results, posing a threat to their chances of securing places on sixth form A level courses.

Results should have been sent to schools by Wednesday of last week. Yesterday officials in charge of the new examination, taken by 700,000 pupils for the first time this summer, promised a review of the way results are issued.

Talks will start shortly between the six GCSE examination groups covering England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Mr Dennis Hatfield, chairman of the joint council for the GCSE, under whose auspices the talks on the new system will take place, said that he felt "every sympathy" with candidates who were still still awaiting results.

"I think the joint council will want to be looking at the general arrangements for the issuing of results."

The examining groups were keen to avoid a dreadful post-mortem examination on the GCSE, he added. But pressure is intensifying from two quarters for action.

On one hand parents, pupils and schools have raised a growing chorus of complaint about the failure of the examination groups to issue results on time.

On the other, the biggest association of school heads, the National Association of Head Teachers, has called for the six examination groups to be amalgamated to form a single GCSE board.

The groups are opposed to such a move, believing that it would threaten the freedom of schools to choose syllabuses and examinations which suit their pupils and particular teaching styles.

Mr Hatfield said: "If there were to be only one examining body that would be the end of freedom of choice. Schools would be forced into a curriculum straightjacket."

Many of the complaints about the non-arrival of results or the issuing of incorrect grades concern the Midlands Examining Group, which has suffered a new setback.

A computer error meant that results for its computer studies GCSE were wrongly marked. Fresh grades are to be issued.

At Royston in Hertfordshire, pupils at the Meridian School were still waiting for their GCSE German results from the Midlands Examining Group.

Mrs Joan Matthews, whose daughter Antonia was among those waiting, said: "When the results came through they were all marked as absent even though they had all taken the exam."

"It is so unfair on the children and the exam boards just seem to be so unhelpful. Some of my daughter's friends are very worried because they do not know if they will be able to go on to do German in the sixth form."

At Saffron Walden High School in Essex, Mr David Boatman, the headmaster, said the Midlands group had still not issued grades to three quarters of his 240 pupils who sat the English language test in June.

Mr Boatman said he did not accept the assertions by board officials that the problems affecting GCSE were no worse than those experienced under the O Level and CSE examinations it replaced.

"We never suffered from these sorts of problems under the previous systems", he said. "I suspect that the truth is that the boards have been short of examiners."

Last night Mr Brian Swift, secretary of the Midlands Examining Group, was unavailable for comment.

Miss Joan Wilkinson, headmistress at the troubled Priory Comprehensive School in Liverpool, faces a strike by teachers demanding her resignation.

They blame her for failing to tackle violence and disorder in the classroom. A deputy headmaster had a hammer embedded in his skull in an attack by two boys last year.

The National Union of Teachers plans to ballot its 40 members at the school on Monday on a one-day strike call. The staff has passed a vote of no-confidence in the headmistress.

City stockbrokers felt the fact that Britoil had a Government-held golden share was having a depressing effect on the stock market valuation of the company, which in turn allowed BP to pick up its initial stake in Britoil at a bargain price.

Away from the stock exchanges and out in the harsh environment of the North Sea, Britoil had a different reputation. It was seen as one of the most aggressive explorers and, in the first five years of its existence, drilled more exploration wells than any other oil company, including BP, and added the equivalent of 577 million barrels of oil to Britain's energy reserves.

It also had oil assets in the United States, Egypt, Indonesia, Angola, Norway, Holland and in the Middle East. Its management was also waiting for an end to the Iran-Iraq conflict to seek permission to exploit detailed geological knowledge it had about areas of Iraq.

By 1987 it was producing the equivalent of 84 million barrels of oil a year - as well as oil it had gas-producing assets - and was the operator of four major North Sea fields.

With 1,700 staff in Glasgow and Aberdeen, Britoil was Scotland's largest publicly quoted company and also one of the wealthiest. During the past five years it generated a £2.2 billion profit after tax

and invested £1.8 billion in exploration and development projects. It also had paid off almost £300 million of debt to the Government which had been in its balance sheet when Britoil was launched.

As part of its defence, Britoil commissioned an independent analysis of its assets, which put a value on the company of 699p a share compared with the BP offer of 500p. But many of the institutional investors - including one who handled investments for the Britoil staff pension fund - found the BP offer too attractive after sitting on shares which were often valued at less than 200p by the stock market.

David Norwood, aged 19 and about to go to Keble College, Oxford, has scored another big success in the second round of the King's Head International chess tournament.

In round two, Norwood, playing black, defeated the Australian grandmaster Ian Rogers.

Norwood has now won two consecutive games against grandmaster opponents and leads the tournament with a 100 per cent score. He is well on the way to a grandmaster result himself in this tournament, which would make him the youngest English player to achieve such a distinction.

Other results from round two (all players England unless otherwise stated): Daniel King drew with Michael Adams; Mark Hebden beat Colin McNab (Scotland); Sergei Kudrin (USA) beat Heikki Westerinen (Finland); Julian Hodgson beat Tony Kosten.

Leading scores after two rounds are David Norwood 2 points; Mark Hebden and Michael Adams 1½ points.

## Candles for a hostage



Miss Jill Morrell, the girl friend of Mr John McCarthy, the British journalist held in Lebanon, keeping an all-night vigil at St Bride's, Fleet Street, central London, for him and other hostages. It was the fifth vigil to be held in the journalists' church for Mr McCarthy, Mr Terry Waite and Mr Brian Keenan, a teacher (Photograph: Mark Pepper).

## 15,000 postal staff strike

By Our Employment Affairs Correspondent

More than 15,000 postal workers took strike action yesterday over the employment of temporary staff, leaving several regions without mail collections or deliveries for the third day running.

The Post Office said there were three times as many postal workers on strike as on Thursday. However, most were from offices where services had already been halted. It said it had taken on 500 temporary staff throughout Britain to help clear an estimated 100 million items of mail held up since the 24-hour strike on Wednesday.

The postal workers, who declared an official strike over the payment of bonuses to recruits, had been expecting a big increase in overtime while they cleared the backlog.

The worst hit regions yesterday were Liverpool, where the whole city was without services, Cardiff, Swansea, central Manchester and the West End of London.

A total of 20 sorting offices were affected. However, staff at Doncaster, Southend, Basford, Warrington and Warwick returned to work after local agreements.

The Union of Communication Workers said the "overwhelming majority" of its 140,000 members were working normally. Liverpool, where 3,500 staff joined the strike, was the only place where no talks were held between the management and the union.

Mr Billy Hayes, UCU branch secretary at Liverpool, said the strike was "looking indefinite". He said 20 casual workers crossed the picket lines in Liverpool yesterday.

"All we are asking is for the casuals to be withdrawn and we will return to work."

However, Mr Ian Gauld, Liverpool's head postmaster, said the temporary workers would not be withdrawn.

"Even if staff return to work now there will be a huge mail backlog, and the longer they stay on strike, the more casual staff we will need to clear it."

In Manchester, about a third of the city's 44 main post offices were closed.

## Britoil takeover

## Government's golden share helped BP's cause

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Britoil, which was created out of the Government-held North Sea oil assets in 1982 and at one time proudly boasted that it was the "world's largest pure exploration oil company", fought long and hard to avoid falling into the hands of BP.

However, it was up against an opponent out to show the world that its management's determination had not been dented by the near-disastrous sale of the Government's 32 per cent stake in BP last October.

BP's eventual victory came in late-February, after its announcement that all the Britoil jobs in Scotland would be safe and that operations at the ultra-modern Glasgow of-

fice - Britoil retained only a small rented suite of offices in London with a handful of staff - would be expanded.

Britoil itself had a difficult birth. The flotation of the company by the Government in 1982 was hardly a success for the Government's privatization programme and the underwriters in the City were left holding large parcels of shares which were placed in the market in the ensuing months. There was also the Government decision to retain a golden share, which the management thought made the company take-over proof.

BP held a different view and the Government eventually agreed that the takeover could go ahead. Ironically, some speculation that indeed there is a monster beneath the dark, grey waters.

The lock bed is covered in caves and it is suspected, Nessie spends most of her time inside the caverns, venturing out to tantalize the public and provide journalists with stories of new sightings.

"I have always kept an open mind about there being a monster in the loch and this time I am sure there is something down there," Mr Galbraith, aged 36, who has kept a print-out of the image, said.

Last October, Operation Deepscan was mounted in the

company of hundreds of international journalists and led by Mr Adrian Shine. One vessel, the New Atlantis, picked up an image on its screen for several seconds, enough to prove the existence of something in the deep and to keep one of Scotland's biggest natural attractions in the eye of the world.

Meanwhile, *The Times*' cursory inspection of Loch Ness failed to come up with any hard evidence apart from the fact that thousands of tourists are content to spend vast amounts of cash every year on soft toys depicting Nessie's absurdly grinning image.

and invested £1.8 billion in exploration and development projects. It also had paid off almost £300 million of debt to the Government which had been in its balance sheet when Britoil was launched.

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## £30,000 bail for swim trainer

By Susan MacDonald  
and David Cross

The trainer blamed for the death of a cross-Channel swimmer last week was yesterday allowed to return home to Brazil on bail totalling 300,000 francs (about £30,000) after telling an examining French magistrate that she thought that the crew of the accompanying boat were only interested in making money out of the trip.

At a private hearing in Boulogne, Senhora Judith Russo conceded that she had known that the British captain and his mate and the American observer for the Channel Swimmers' Association had wanted to end the attempt when Senhora Renata Agondi was a few miles from the French coast.

But partly because of language difficulties, she had thought that the boat crew wanted to turn round so that they could earn themselves another £600 for a second trip. Mr Colin Cook, the captain of the Hilda May, Mr Graham Featherby, his mate, both from Folkestone, and Mr Mark Lewis, of Truroville, Alabama, have all told the police that they tried for hours to persuade Senhora Russo to abandon the swim because they were afraid she might die.

Senhora Russo told M. Vogel Weith, who is in charge of the case, that at no time did Senhora Agondi indicate that she wanted to stop the swim. If she had done so, then she would have pulled her from the water.

She also blamed language problems for confusion over distances between the boat and the French coastline during the final stages of the swim. Acknowledging that she held up a sign stating that they were about two kilometres away from shore when the distance was in fact 10 kilometres, she said that she had been confused by the crew about whether they were calculating distances in miles or kilometres.

It was Mr Lewis who dived into the waves to try to save the swimmer but when they brought her on board she failed to respond to resuscitation. She was certified dead when she was flown to Calais in an RAF Wessex helicopter.

A post-mortem examination on her is expected to show that she died of exhaustion.

## Delay after rival airline blocks spares

A Dan Air flight from the Spanish island of Mahon arrived more than 24 hours late at Stansted yesterday after a spare part had to be ferried out to the stranded aircraft.

Passengers were due to land at 12.35 pm Thursday but a hydraulic pump failed.

## FLIGHTCHECK

Passengers on a second Dan Air flight from Tenerife were due back in the early hours of this morning after being due in at 6.40 am yesterday.

Manchester: A Dan Air flight from Dalaman, Turkey, due in at 5 am yesterday morning, expected to arrive at 11 pm last night as a result of a technical problem.

The airline also experienced a number of delays on other services, with a flight from Palma six hours late and another from Ibiza more than two hours late. Technical problems also caused a flight to Girona, in Italy, which was expected to take off last night after a five-hour delay.

Strong head-winds caused a Dan Air flight from Greece to stop at Naples for refuelling. It was due to arrive four hours late last night.

London: A Monarch flight from Girona was expected more than 3½ hours late. A BIA flight from Milan was expected after a two hour delay.

Gatwick: No delays.

Birmingham: No delays.

## Thatcher joy

The Prime Minister is to become a grandmother. Mrs Margaret Thatcher's son Mark and his wife Diane are expecting a baby in the spring.

## Norwood on target for grandmaster score

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

David Norwood, aged 19 and about to go to Keble College, Oxford, has scored another big success in the second round of the King's Head International chess tournament.

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Nightmare of the pensioners under pressure to buy houses they have lived in all their lives

Town takes stand against 'threats' by leasehold firm

By Andrew Moger, Ian Smith and Patrick Masters

A firm which seeks profit from people living in leasehold houses has run into a snag: the close-knit West Yorkshire community of Todmorden is refusing to pay.

Three hundred leaseholders there have banded together, held a public meeting, taken legal advice, called in the local Fraud Squad and are alleging harassment by a company which recently took over management of their freehold.

payments, solicitors estimate that Salt Properties might have made £100,000.

Salt's phraseology is often vague and its letters, entitled *Uncle Sam's Newsletter*, sometimes nonsensical. But recipients, many of them pensioners who have lived in the same house all their lives, interpret them as unreasonable and threatening.



The properties in Todmorden are mostly terraced houses built in the 1850s and 1860s.

One letter, dated September 1 1988, says: "There is no reason not to buy your own home. If you don't buy, maybe you enjoy the excitement of solicitors, judges, bailiffs,

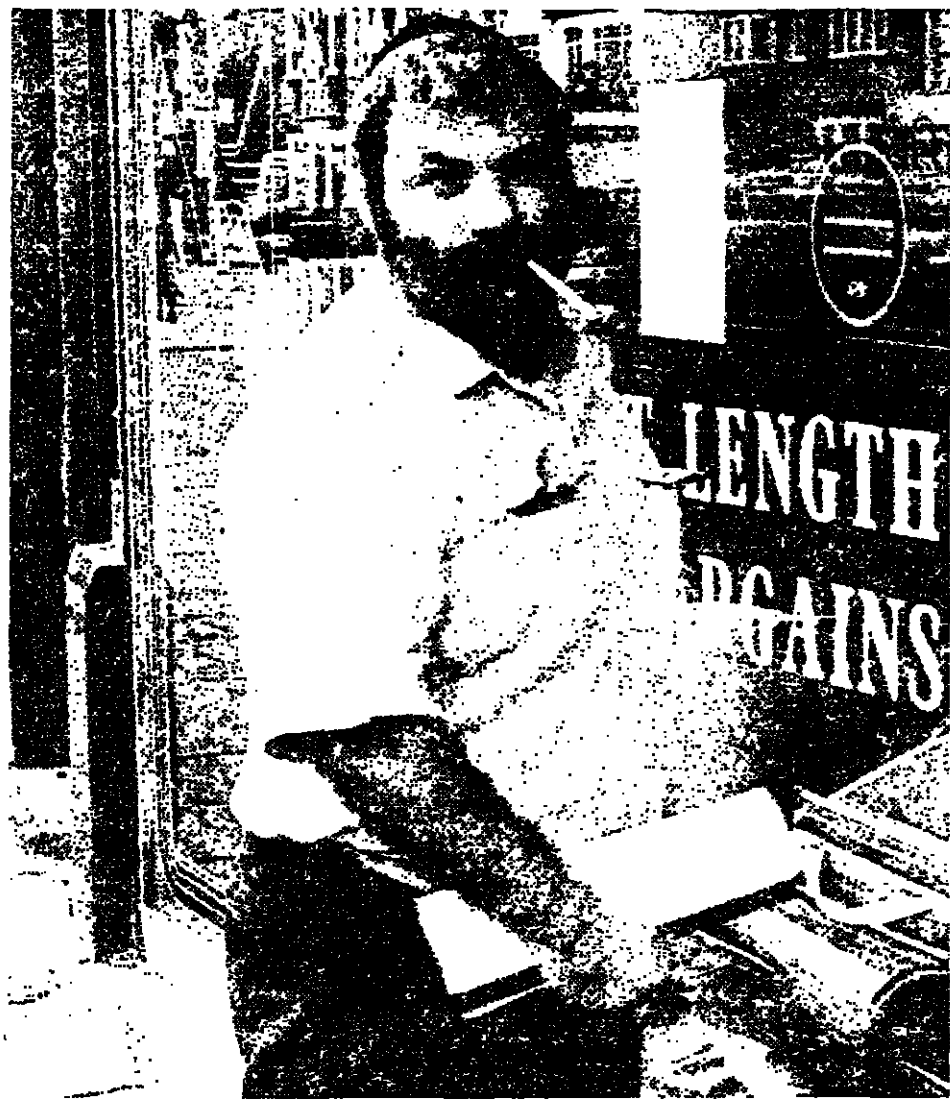
moving vans and public auctions.

"Depending on your lease, it is quite possible that you can't build a garage or change the outside of your house (even to put a hole in the wall for central heating). Rear, front, side or roof extensions may cost extra if you need freeholder's consent. . . future freeholders will always be checking your lease for new money-making ideas.

"Think about the times that you would like to go on holiday, or even just shopping and your freeholder places your ground rent in a public auction and the auctioneers ask you to stay at home so that possible buyers can view your property and/or confirm location of 'For Sale' sign."

Other letters to leaseholders seek payment of £28.75 "administration costs" for any requests for information.

One West Yorkshire lawyer, Mr Godfrey Pickles, said: "I am convinced this is a trawling expedition. Salt have cast their net and are waiting to see how many fish they catch."



Mr S Antonelli ("call me Uncle Sam") outside his company's address in east London: "For £4,000 you get as many stories as you want". (Photograph: Denzil McNeelance)

Man who talks only of money

The Times visited Uncle Sam at the registered address of Salt Properties: 147b Clapton Common, east London. It is a carpet shop.

Are you, we asked him, the S. Antonelli, whose signature appears on the documents of Munny Ltd?

"Just call me Uncle Sam," he said. "How much will you pay me for an interview?"

Reporter Patrick Masters and photographer Denzil McNeelance sat on rolled-up carpets while Uncle Sam sat on a chair at the only desk, crammed into a corner. He looks about 45 and wears a blue skull-cap.

Masters said he wanted to establish who owned the newly-formed Salt Properties Ltd and pointed out that the Companies Act 1985 entitled him to that information.

"Do you want to do business the hard way or the nice way?" Uncle Sam said, in his American voice, and asked again if we were willing to pay for an interview.

Masters offered him 20p, the statutory amount for a look at company books. Uncle Sam was not happy at the offer. He picked up the phone and had a lengthy conversation in what sounded like Hebrew.

Then he took the 20p, produced the books and gave us a receipt signed "Uncle Sam" on which the writing appeared similar to that on company records.

McNeelance took some pictures and Uncle Sam said: "Hey, That's not on the menu. Photographs cost. We haven't talked about money."

Uncle Sam was asked: "What charities are you interested in?"

He said: "Three UK and two foreign. One charity, people here wouldn't like very much. It's aim is to help Jewish women avoid marrying out of their religion."

Reporter Andrew Moger returned to the Salt address two days later to see the books of Munny.

Uncle Sam flicked out an upturned palm and said: "Put your money down there. You pay me £4,000. For that you get as many stories as you want. £4,000. One pound for every property I've sent a letter to."

Moger asked him: "What is your response to the claim that your letters are threatening and frightening and amount to harassment?"

"Money. Let's see how much you've got."

Defiant ex-soldier disputes £300 bill

A defiant former prisoner of war is refusing to pay Salt Property Limited's bill for nearly £300.

Mr Pylip Kobita of Joshua Street, Todmorden, who was born in the Ukraine, is ignoring the bill for retrospective permission for a dormer window he had installed eight years before Salt became involved.

Mr Kobita, aged 79 and partially paralysed, walks short distances with a stick and barely understands English.

Dozens of other people living in the terraced streets of the Pennine mill town have received similar bills. All are following advice given by solicitors to pay nothing, while investigations into the firm continue.

Salt Properties says that unless leases state otherwise, lessees must pay for the freeholder's permission for additions and alterations to their properties.

During the war Mr Kobita was captured by the Allied forces in Italy and was held at a prisoner of war camp in Scotland for two years. Unable to return to the Ukraine he settled in England and moved to his Todmorden home 25 years ago.

He and his German-born

wife Theresa received a bill requesting £200 for the dormer extension and £86.25 for computer time and administration costs.

Mr Kobita says that the alterations to his house were done eight years before Salt took over the management of the properties and his solicitors can find no reference in the lease insisting on freeholder's permission.

Todmorden solicitor Godfrey Pickles and other lawyers have examined dozens of leases relating to properties in the area.

They have advised residents to pay nothing until the company's claims have been investigated.

There is nothing in Mr Kobita's lease which requires consent for extensions, Mr Pickles said.

Mr Kobita's neighbours Alan Law, 31, and Lynne Smedhurst, 22, have received a bill for a similar amount for their dormer extension.

The couple who plan to marry shortly and have a son aged three called Ricky, say Salt will have to come and knock on their door before they will consider paying anything. They and Mr Kobita say no-one has been to them for permission to examine the work done on their homes.

Dummy eggs are helping red kites

By Andrew Morgan

The red kite, one of Britain's rarest birds of prey, has had its second best season this century after the introduction of a scheme which involves the female sitting on dummy eggs while her real ones are hatched artificially.

The project was organized by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Nature Conservancy Council, which justified taking the eggs on the grounds of the bird's rarity and poor breeding rate.

The red kite was prolific in Britain in the last century but was virtually exterminated apart from the small colony in central Wales. It has been closely protected there for more than 30 years but the breeding population is still fewer than 50 pairs, making it rarer than the osprey and golden eagle.

Egg thieves and poor hatching rates had combined to give Britain a breeding success rate half that of the Continent, but this year 38 young kites are known to have flown from 47 nests with help from the unique programme.

The kite usually lays up to three eggs and some were removed soon after laying. They were replaced with dummy eggs, or even old buzzard eggs, and placed under bantam hens until a few

days before hatching when they were put in incubators. After 10 days they were returned to the wild.

The hatching took place at the Dyfed sanctuary of Dr Nick Fox, one of Britain's leading bird of prey specialists. The eggs' transportation is so delicate that the exercise might not have occurred if he had lived further afield.

Kite chicks were often returned to the wild alongside a chick born naturally. However, adult kites did not object when the chicks arrived at a previously empty nest. "They are extremely tolerant," said Roger Lovegrove, RSPB officer for Wales.

Ten eggs were incubated this year. Eight hatched and were returned to the wild. Two chicks died later. In a parallel exercise, fibreglass "kite" eggs fitted with transmitters and temperature sensors were placed alongside authentic eggs to provide data about egg temperatures, movements of adults and turning rates of the kites during incubation.

To explain the relative failure of the kite, time lapse cameras were installed to monitor the presence of the adult birds during incubation and to record any human intruders and natural predators.

Kosher caterer cleared of blackmail charge

A kosher caterer accused of blackmailing a business rival to make him withdraw his tender for a synagogue contract was cleared at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

After lengthy legal submissions Mr Recorder David Coles, QC, directed the jury to find Mr David Zeital, director of Mr David's Choice Foods, not guilty of making an unwarranted demand with menaces on Mr Bernard Aidallibery to withdraw his tender

for the catering franchise at the Kinloss banqueting suite attached to Finchley Synagogue.

Mr Aidallibery's offer of £40,000 was accepted by the synagogue's governing body.

The prosecution alleged that Mr Zeital, aged 42, from Stanmore, north-west London, employed a private detective to gather information on his rival that would show he did not abide by orthodox Jewish law.

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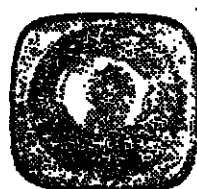
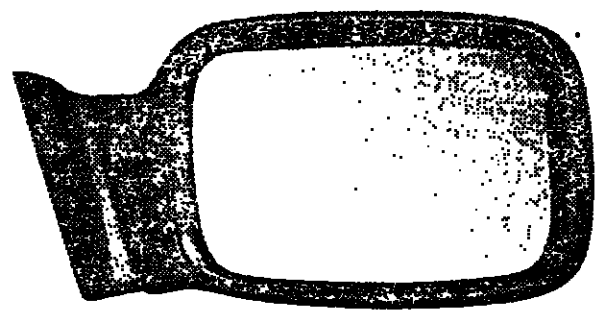
### Once again Ford are improving the Escort.

As you can see some of the most popular options in the catalogue are now being made standard. Not only that, but we're also introducing the 1.3 HCS (High Compression Swirl) petrol engine.

Some models will now have variable-rate steering: lighter for parking but not too light on the open road.

There are several new colours to choose from. And there are some smart new interior trims.

These new Escorts are at Ford dealers now, along with the latest Orions and Sierras, so why not call in and see them?

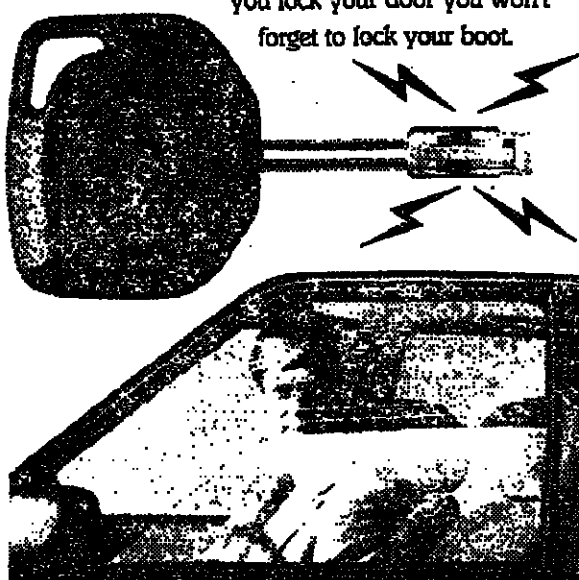


**Power mirrors.** Previous option price £75\*. Not any more. They're standard on the Escort GL. So now you can adjust both mirrors at the flick of a switch.

\*Maximum retail price at 15th August 1988.

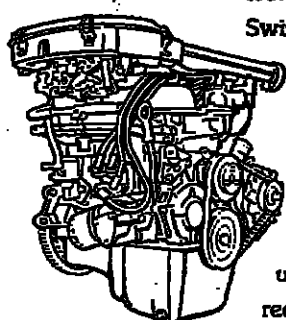
### Central locking. Once it could have cost £275\*.

Now it's standard on the Escort LX. So now when you lock your door you won't forget to lock your boot.



**Electric front windows.** Previously £250\* as an option. Now they're standard on the Escort GL and XR3i.

### 1.3 HCS petrol engine.



New High Compression Swirl cylinder technology and electronic ignition brings more power and greater efficiency to 1.3 litre Escorts. They run on leaded or unleaded fuel without requiring adjustment.



**Sunroof.** Previously £390\* as an option. Now it's standard even on the Escort L. So all we need now is some sun!



### New trim.

Every model in the Escort range gets new trim. The one featured here is called Madrid, and comes in the Escort L and LX.

### New colours.

Four smart new colours are now available. One solid - Radiant Red, and three metallic - Tasman Blue, Aqua Jade and Magenta.

# Escort standards raised again.



The new Escort LX.  
With central locking standard and a new front bumper and grille.



**The Ford Escort.**

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WORLD ROUNDUP

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# Hard-hitting Bush forces Dukakis on to the defensive



Vice-President Bush: wiped out his opponent's lead.

A new George Bush has been created in the breathless few weeks since his "coming-out" speech to the Republican National Convention. The tame, genteel man has vanished. Today he is playing to the pounding old Republican rhythm of flag and family, prayer and patriotism, and sounds more and more like an old-style demagogue.

The election campaign has slipped into a dirtier phase. Governor Michael Dukakis has been angrily criticized within his own ranks for failing to move with the new tempo. Only now has he grudgingly returned to the national campaign trail after too long coasting in Massachusetts, but as yet his vague "George-can't-be-trusted" message falls far short of Mr Bush's cutting new style.

The Vice-President has become a man of cliché. He has

seized on symbolism, calling Mr Dukakis, for example, a "card-carrying member" of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), a turn made ugly by its evocation of McCarthyism and its "card-carrying communist" demagoguery.

Mr Bush has been hammering the governor over the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance, which is uttered voluntarily in elementary schools all over the country, as an innocent little statement of patriotism. ("I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.")

By implication, Mr Bush is accusing his rival of being unpatriotic for rejecting an unconstitutional Massachusetts law that would have

made the saying of the pledge compulsory. The governor was forced on the defensive. He desperately needs to get out into the country and "define himself", to explain whether he really is what his opponent says he is.

Guns bring big votes in the South and West, and in his

## Washington View

By Christopher Thomas

new "keep-it-short-keep-it-simple" style, Mr Bush has been unequivocal: "I favour guns." He ignored the fact that President Reagan suggested some gun controls on the "no-questions-asked" sale of handguns that effectively exists in many states.

His campaign aides dragged up a quote written for — and never uttered by — Mr Dukakis several years ago in

which he urged handgun control. Mr Bush is unrelentingly using the quote against his rival in gun-crazy States like Texas and California. The governor's protestations in favour of gun ownership — with certain controls — have been drowned in the thunder of applause for Mr Bush's "hang-em-high" refrain.

There are many theories on why Mr Bush has improved his position in the polls from being the seemingly hopeless underdog. One is that the controversy over Senator Dan Quayle kept Mr Dukakis out of the papers and off the network news for the best part of two weeks, so people simply forgot him. (The Dukakis camp favours this theory.)

Another is that, while the Democratic National Convention was all about patching it up with the Reverend Jesse Jackson and bringing minor-

ities into the Liberal-looking camp, the Republican one was about gutsy things like wealth, privilege, Vietnam, service to country, war, strength and freedom fighters.

The Quayle affair, according to this theory, brought the Republican convention into the living room and the corner bar, while the Democratic gathering never really escaped from the leader pages and late night talk shows.

Mr Bush's combative new style is designed to fan the flames ignited in New Orleans. He always refused to stoop to "negative campaigning", as it is euphemistically described, but as a matter of campaign policy he is now deeply embroiled in negatives.

References to his rival's "card carrying" membership of the ACLU is a case in point.

but it enjoys widespread respect in the country. In 1942, it challenged the internment of Japanese Americans, a stance fully vindicated only a few weeks ago when Congress approved financial compensation and issued a formal apology on behalf of the nation.

The organization defended the teaching of the theory of evolution, the right to publish James Joyce's *Ulysses* and attend integrated schools. It fought for the right of the poor to legal counsel; for the principle of one-man-one-vote; and for the rights of blacks and others to vote. It was one of the first groups to insist that the US Constitution applied to women.

All this has given a left-wing tinge to its reputation. But it has also defended the rights of Ku Klux Klan members, Na-

zis, anti-communists of every hue, and employers fighting forced unionization.

Most voters, however, hear only the background noise: "Card carrying" sounds sinister, and isn't it also true that Michael Dukakis saw a psychiatrist and his wife burnt the American flag during Vietnam? (No to both, but the rumours were reported.)

As for the Pledge of Allegiance, being compelled to say it was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in 1943 because it would have violated the religious rights of people like Jehovah's Witnesses. Mr Bush has never mentioned the rights of such minorities nor, for that matter, the 1943 ruling.

The whole affair is an election-season creation, but it is playing terribly well in Peoria, just as the gun issue is playing well in Waco.

## US airlines fined \$1m after 'guns' pass security checks

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The United States Government has fined 32 airlines a total of more than \$1 million (\$590,000) for failing to conduct adequate security checks at airports.

The civil penalties were imposed after Federal Aviation Administration undercover inspectors were able to pass fake weapons through airport security checkpoints without having them detected by X-ray machines, metal detectors or security men.

The airlines are responsible for the checkpoints, but the screening actually is conducted by security companies hired by air carriers.

A recent Aviation Administration audit of security tests showed improved screening, with an average of 85.6 per cent of the fake weapons being detected during the first six months of this year, compared with 78.9 per cent last year. Some airport checkpoints detected more than 95 per cent of the simulated weapons in the tests.

The biggest of the fines, totalling \$215,000, was levied

against United Airlines, for 26 violations.

Northwest Airlines was fined \$156,000 for 21 alleged violations while Delta Air Lines was hit with a \$113,000 fine for 23 violations, the Aviation Administration said on Thursday.

The remaining carriers were fined less than \$100,000 each for from one to 16 violations. The airlines are required under stringent federal anti-terrorism regulations to screen all passengers and their carry-on baggage for weapons and explosives.

"The security lapses involved failures to detect items that were not weapons but that should have been detected as weapons by airport X-ray and metal detector operations," the Department of Transportation said.

Items were hidden in the luggage or on the body of undercover Aviation Administration employees to test airport security officials' compliance with the federal rules. It was unclear whether any of the airlines planned to

contest the fines, which have yet to be paid.

Meanwhile, experts are continuing the investigation of the wreckage of the Delta Air Lines Boeing 727 which crashed at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport on Wednesday on take-off, killing 13 people.

Mr Lee Dickinson, a National Transportation Safety Board member, said that a playback of the voice recorder retrieved from the wreckage showed that a warning went off indicating a possible stall just after take-off.

"The stick shaker gave some kind of communication, a warning that a stall condition may be approaching. Shortly after that there was some conversation about an engine problem," he said.

The stick shaker literally vibrates the control column with a buzzing sound.

A safety board spokesman explained that the stall warning impeding aerodynamic stall, or insufficient lift. Experts said that just because the crew

thought they might be having engine problems, it did not necessarily mean that one or more of the three engines around the tail of the plane had actually malfunctioned and caused the crash.

Inside the cockpit, investigators found the flap handle, which is used to set the flaps so they will assist in gaining lift for takeoff, in an up, or retracted, position. Mr Dickinson was reported as saying on Thursday.

On take-off, the flaps and flap handle would be down, or extended. However, Mr Dickinson said that the flap handle could have been moved by the pilots while they were trying to free themselves from the cockpit after impact.

Investigators were also reported to have noted that the flaps appeared to be up on one wing but said they had not determined whether the flaps moved into that position as a result of the crash.

The investigation of the fiery crash, in which 95 people survived, may take as long as 10 months.

## Glimpse of the stars from down under



Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, opening his country's £24 million telescope at Culgoora in New South Wales yesterday. The facility, the largest in the Southern Hemisphere, opens a new southern window on the universe.

## Zia death heralds worsening of Afghan war

By Karan Thapar

It was said while President Zia was alive that his position was crucial to the situation in Afghanistan: the Mujahidin depended on his support and the Kabul regime feared it. His sudden death was supposed to have ended this influence.

Instead, his power has possibly grown. For, just two weeks later, it is becoming clear how much of an impact his absence is likely to have.

For the moment, the overall Afghan picture is one of increased uncertainty and unpredictability.

While the Mujahidin and the regime have separate plans to increase their civil war effort, within the Peshawar seven-party guerrilla alliance the moderate and fundamen-

talist groups have also begun to compete for arms and eventual domination. As a result, there is a sudden burst of both diplomatic and military activity.

Yet, the ingredients of what again seems a muddle in Afghanistan are individually simple.

Fearing that Zia's loss could undermine their position, the Mujahidin are expected to step up their military activity and thus hasten the bloody denouement between their own forces and those of the Najibullah Government.

The Mujahidin realize that they have until November, when Pakistan's elections are due, before big changes in Islamabad's Afghan policy become apparent. They also know that, until then, pressure

from the United States, and the caretaker Administration's own need to court Washington, will bring greater continuity rather than change. The next few months could, therefore, see a worsening in

Moscow (Reuters) — Rockets fired by Muslim guerrillas at Kabul on Thursday killed nine people, five of them children, Tass reported yesterday.

Twenty-one people were injured after at least 48 rockets hit Kabul airport and other parts of the city, including a playground, where Tass said 11 children were maimed.

The Afghan civil war, with the Mujahidin determined to strengthen their position, Mr George Schulz, the US Secretary of State, recently

seemed to encourage such ambitions, telling the Mujahidin: "We will do all what we can to see that you succeed."

The recent rocket attacks on Kabul Airport were a direct result of the Mujahidin's renewed determination to improve their position.

Zia's death has galvanized the guerrillas in other ways as well. It has nurtured the long-sown seeds of dissension that were always threatening to divide them.

While he was alive, it was the fundamentalists who were the main recipients of military equipment channelled in through Pakistan, because he had the authority to withstand the reaction of other Mujahidin groups as well as

America's preference for a more balanced distribution.

His successors have already made clear that they intend to follow a more even-handed policy, which should in time strengthen the four moderate groups and embolden their pursuit of a political solution.

For its part, the Najibullah Government and its Soviet supporters are keenly aware that Zia's death may have begun to swing the balance in their favour since, if his eventual successors distance themselves from the Mujahidin, or if the vacuum he has left leads to indecision in Islamabad, the outcome could favour the Kabul authorities. So they, too, are pressing their advantage in two main ways — through cross-border air raids into

Pakistan aimed at intimidating Zia's successors, and by threatening to reschedule the Soviet troop withdrawal.

As a result of the post-Zia uncertainty, a quick and bloody climax to the war is very much on the cards.

On Thursday Soviet aircraft crossed 20 miles into Pakistani territory, bombing border villages and killing civilians, in a bid to intimidate Islamabad into a hasty change in its Afghan policy. Zia had shown he was imperious to previous cross border raids. But his successors could be more vulnerable. And this was the deepest raid yet. Connected with such moves are the increasingly heard Soviet and Afghan threats to stall or reschedule the second stage of the Soviet withdrawal.

## WORLD ROUNDUP

### Pretoria buys time for laws

Cape Town — The South African Government's dramatic decision to withdraw controversial legislation that would have increased its power to evict blacks from white areas may only be a tactical retreat to buy time and defuse a looming constitutional crisis (Michael Hornsby writes).

Afrikaans and English newspapers here called the Government's decision a "climdown". The five Bills that have been withdrawn are to be re-introduced to Parliament in modified form for debate in a joint session of all three houses — white, Coloured and Indian — starting on September 26. There is no indication the Government intends to abandon the essential features of the legislation.

### Journalists fight Bill

Delhi (Reuters) — Indian journalists plan rallies, strikes and a boycott of parliamentary question-time to protest against a government defamation Bill they say will restrict press freedom. Six journalist unions and associations were to meet yesterday to finalize the plans, union officials said.

The Bill, passed by the lower house of Parliament on Tuesday, would shift the onus of proof in defamation cases on to the accused and remove protection given to newspapers reporting statements made in Parliament. Newspaper editors and opposition leaders said the Bill was a draconian measure to kill investigative journalism after newspapers exposed charges of pay-offs in big arms deals.

### Police suspension

Sydney — The Police Commissioner for Queensland, Sir Terence Lewis, has been suspended from duty after it was alleged that he had links with organized crime and that the force was riddled with corruption. Sir Terence is alleged to have accepted regular bribes, together with a former Queensland Cabinet Minister, Mr Don Lane (A Correspondent writes).

Evidence given to the long-running (Tony) Fitzgerald Commission in Brisbane this week alleged a history of corruption involving junior and senior police officers.

### Egg-throwing debate

Wellington (AFP) — The appropriate penalty for throwing an egg at a prominent figure became the subject of public debate in New Zealand yesterday after Mr Christopher Owen-Cooper, aged 68, walked free from court after admitting that he hit a Cabinet Minister, Mr Richard Prebble, with an egg before a political meeting.

The judge accepted Mr Owen-Cooper's explanation that he threw the egg out of working class frustration at the Government's economic policies. But the judgement was described as ludicrous by Ann Thorby, aged 24, one of two women jailed in 1986 after hitting the Queen with an egg in Auckland during protests over Maori rights.

### Singapore at the polls



Singapore — Singapore goes to the polls today in a snap election that is almost certain to keep Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister, left, and his ruling People's Action Party in power but which threatens to turn into a referendum on his increasingly autocratic style of Government and his use of the Internal Security Act to jail critics (Chris Pomeroy writes).

For Mr Lee, fighting his eighth election since he came to power in 1959, today's vote is designed to secure a mandate for the "second generation" of his party's leaders.

## Bangladesh loses a lifeline

From Ahmed Fazl, Tangail, Bangladesh

Mrs Majnun Nesa gave an empty look at the vast expanse of rising water outside the relief camp in the inundated town of Tangail yesterday, as 200 other refugees huddled together in the temporary shelter set up in a school waiting for army volunteers to arrive with the daily ration of boiled rice and mashed lentils.

Mrs Nesa is keeping a vigil for a different reason. The great floods which have gripped Bangladesh for the past two weeks have drowned all her three children, but she would not give up hope of their return.

The 22-year old farmer's wife was brought to the camp by Red Cross workers, from a village two miles away, in a state of shock, having lost the children two days ago. Her husband had searched all over

the flooded village for the missing daughters.

"She would not take any food," said her husband Mr Rahim Ullah, who is worried that the grief could kill his wife.

The camp, located in the heart of the agricultural town, is a *tableau vivant* of misery and agony as the survivors, mostly in damp clothes, cling to their lives. As the water level rose overnight in the local river more areas of

Tangail, about 65 miles north of Dhaka, were flooded.

The town is only one of a hundred others which, together with tens of thousands of villages, have been devastated by the worst floods in memory displacing about 30 million people and leaving about 450 others dead. It is completely cut off from

the rest of the country by vast sheets of water and the only way food can be transported in is by air. The situation worsened further yesterday when Dhaka airport was forced to close, cutting a vital lifeline with the outside world.

"We are doing our best to handle the situation, but the rush of flood refugees continues," Mr Mubaidul Islam, the district commissioner told journalists visiting the camp.

Mr Islam has to fight a constant battle against shortages of rice, lentil and salt in his town where nearly 50,000 people have flocked from flooded villages in search of food and dry land.

So far the Government has only allocated 11 tonnes of wheat and one tonne of rice for an estimated two million flood victims.

## Paris tires of Japan's love

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

The summer tourist trade is beginning to slacken off in Paris, but the Japanese are going out with a bang. From dawn to dusk, it sometimes seems, they are scuttling in long lines — often marshalled by a banner-waving guide with a loud hailer — from one to another of the fashionable department stores and exclusive boutiques.

But while their money is always welcome, especially in what has been an otherwise indifferent summer for tourism in Paris, the tidal wave of yen which Japan's leading companies are pouring into the country is viewed somewhat differently by the French authorities.

Over the past few years, they have laid out several hundred million pounds on direct investments, ranging

from one of the capital's finest restaurants, Lucas Carton, and the Parisian society hair-dressers, Carita, to a clutch of hotels, a country club or two and some well-established vineyards in Bordeaux.

An infinitely more famous name in French wine had looked like falling into Japanese hands this summer after the Takashimaya distribution empire made a bid of over £8 million for a one-third stake in Société Leroy, distributors of the revered burgundy, Domaine de la Romanée Conti.

But as *The Times* reported yesterday, the Government now seems determined to block the sale of what M Henri Nallet, the Minister of Agriculture, described with rare passion as part of France's most precious cultural heritage.

Coming so soon after the Asahi beer concern had snapped up Lucas Carton, the move for Romanée Conti may turn out to have been counter-productive. A number of other proposed acquisitions by Japanese firms are at present being held up by the Government here.

In the circumstances, a certain defensiveness on the part of Japanese representatives in Paris is understandable. "Many French firms are inviting us to invest," the manager of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce pointed out to *The New York Times* recently.

What lies behind this love affair with France, by Japan's tourists and tycoons alike? Well, money talks, and the French franc has lost about 20 per cent of its value against the yen over the past two years.

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# Iraqis 'trap' thousands of Kurds fleeing to Turkey

By Rasit Gurdilek in Ankara and Hazhir Teimourian in London

As Turkey braced yesterday for what promises to be a long stay for a mounting number of Kurdish refugees fleeing an all-out Iraqi offensive, hunger and epidemics were already taking their toll among the exhausted immigrants.

At least 70,000 Kurds had entered the country, Mr Turgut Ozal, the Prime Minister, said on Thursday evening, revising upward the day's estimate of 40,000.

Citing humanitarian reasons for helping the Iraqi Kurds to escape Baghdad's vengeance for their siding with Iran during the eight-year Gulf War despite an existing protocol for co-operation against insurgents, Mr Ozal said they would be settled in camps of 10,000.

Meanwhile, in Iraq 43,000 Kurdish civilians fleeing alleged poison gas attacks and trying to reach the safety of the Turkish border were said yesterday to be trapped by the advancing Iraqi Army. A

member of the central committee of the Kurdistan Democratic Party told *The Times* that the refugees, in groups of several thousands, were cut off from Turkey in the regions of Barzan, Akra, Dahok and Sheikhan.

Mr Hoshiyar Zibari said they had been on the move for several days through difficult mountain passes and were suffering from lack of food and exhaustion. Many had also been attacked previously by helicopter gunships and aircraft dropping mustard and nerve gases on them.

Mr Zibari added that on August 28 approximately 1,300 refugees were captured by the Iraqis near the town of Dahok. They were machine-gunned to death and buried in mass graves. He alleged that the main incentive of the use of gas, as many of the refugees bore serious injuries from chemical weapons.

Although the Turkish Red

Crescent and the Turkish Health Ministry continued to rush in supplies of tents, blankets and medicine for the thousands of Kurdish refugees entering the country, there are reports of food shortages and an outbreak of diarrhoea which claimed the lives of seven children.

Press reports said the refugees, kept provisionally at border villages in the Hakkari province neighbouring Iraq and Iran, had demonstrated for help from the International Red Cross.

As more and more fleeing *peshmerga* fighters arrived in Turkey from Iraq, some 7,000 rifles were reported to have been collected by the Turkish border guards as well as heavier weapons, including machine guns and rocket launchers.

Reports that Mr Jalal Talabani, the leader of the Kurdish Patriotic Union, had asked for asylum, was denied by officials here, while contra-

dictory reports had Mr Massoud Barzani, the leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, with 90,000 fighters, either seeking asylum or issuing calls through the rebel radio for a fight to the end.

It was unlikely that Ankara would further tax the grumbling tolerance of Baghdad by providing shelter to its sworn enemies with their loyal armies of supporters. In fact, Mr Mehmet Yazar, the Turkish Government spokesman, said after a Cabinet discussion that the issue "has humanitarian, political and security dimensions and we shall, naturally, seek an optimum balance between these".

Meanwhile, Mr Nuzhet Kandemir, Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary, returned from Iran yesterday to report Tehran's readiness to "accept all the refugees who might want to come over". He also voiced optimism about a Gulf security system proposed by Turkey.

## Isabel Allende comes home from exile



Señora Isabel Allende, daughter of former President Salvador Allende of Chile, arriving at a Santiago welcome as the first of about 500 exiles to return at the invitation of President Pinochet, who toppled Allende's Marxist Government in 1973.

## Last lap problems in Olympics run-up

From Gavin Bell, Seoul

The slippery tennis courts have been resurfaced, and inadequate lighting has been improved in the swimming pool and the gymnastics hall, but strong currents and the possibility of a typhoon threaten havoc for the yachting regatta.

A little more than two weeks before the opening of the Seoul Olympics, the organizers are still grappling with last-minute problems ranging from noisy warplanes to dirty toilets — and Iranian attitudes to women.

Perhaps the most insoluble difficulties face the yachting teams gathered at Suyong Bay, near Pusan, who are alarmed by unpredictable winds and currents.

Robin Pascal, a British 470-class racer and a researcher at the Institute of Oceanographic Studies in Haslemere, Surrey, says data initially provided by the organizers was wildly inaccurate.

"With light winds and a strong current, race days will be lost," he said. "I can see a situation where all the reserve

days will be used up and the races will never be finished." French meteorologists predict that at least one typhoon will strike within 600 miles of Pusan during the race period, and the backlash will force yachts out of the water for at least 24 hours.

Last-minute changes to the opening ceremony in Seoul will spare spectators from the roar of low-flying combat aircraft, and Iranian athletes from the indignity of marching behind a woman.

The original plan for Korean Air Force fighters to stage a thunderous fly-past has been scrapped, and instead light planes will provide a more peaceful display by decorating the sky with the Olympic symbol of interlocking circles.

Beneath them, in deference to Islamic sensibilities, a solitary male will be among 160 women bearing the names of the participating nations. The young soldier recruited for the job says modestly he was a bit embarrassed at first, but now he is quite enjoying the rehearsals. Another late addi-

tion is an aluminium curtain which has been installed near the finish line in the main stadium to reduce head-winds and facilitate fast times.

There has been a less favourable reaction to the provision of army blankets for the athletics and press villages,

Seoul — The Soviet Union is to apply to join Pen, the London-based international association of writers (Gavin Bell writes). Mr Vladimir Karpov, president of the Soviet Writers' Union, said at the end of a Pen congress here that the application will be made at the Pen conference in The Netherlands next year.

and to one of the official beverages, a soft drink called Cool-Pis.

Outside the competition venues, the influx of visitors is creating enormous headaches for hoteliers and municipal officials.

The construction of several hotels has fallen behind schedule, and some may not be

completed in time. In others, services are likely to be affected by an acute shortage of qualified staff.

Health inspectors are buzzing around 14,000 restaurants near stadiums and resort areas with mixed results. A survey last April found one-third had dirty and inadequate toilet facilities, and 39 were serving left-over side dishes.

Tickets are still available for most events, but black-market prices for the opening ceremony have soared to £2,500. The head of a Seoul trading company says he has been unable to buy one for a foreign client, even at that price.

The rush for Olympic souvenirs is in full swing, and the Soviet delegation has already staked a claim to 15 vehicles and 21 items of electronic equipment being provided for them during the Games by local companies. Apparently the donors have agreed to the Russians' unusual request to be allowed to take the goods home with them on board the freighter Mikhail Sholokov.

On the crime front, Interpol

has given a warning that more than 800 international pickpockets may be heading for Seoul. However, local police may be relied on to be unusually helpful, judging by the experience of a Finnish journalist last weekend.

After his wallet went missing during an Olympic Torch ceremony, he reported to the police that it had contained roughly 200,000 won (£165) — in fact, the amount was closer to 180,000 won.

A few hours later, he was told that it had been recovered and "everything is inside". Amid smiles all round, he found to his surprise his wallet now contained precisely 200,000 won in crisp, new banknotes.

● **Ammunition missing:** Police said yesterday they were investigating the disappearance of 400 rounds of ammunition intended for shooting contests in the Games (AP reports).

The ammunition is missing from an unsealed container on a Japanese-registered ship from Britain.

## Social Democrats refine policies to unsettle Kohl

From A Correspondent, Münster

Herr Heiner Geissler, general secretary of the governing Christian Democratic Union and one of West Germany's leading political agitators, has seldom been so wrong.

At the beginning of the week, just before his main political opponent's biennial congress opened in the city of Münster, he characterized the Social Democratic Party as "boring".

The past four days in Münster were anything but tiresome. Despite a hard rear-guard action by the "traditional" left and the trade-union-based right, the Social Democrats are changing, and that is rarely boring.

With the centre-right coalition Government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl increasingly seen as floundering, and his Christian Democrats behind the Social Democrats in the public-opinion polls, the Social Democrats see a good chance of soon regaining the power they lost in Bonn six years ago.

The main precondition is convincing the voters that the party is economically responsible. The chairman, Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, correctly pointed out in his opening speech on Tuesday that the

past two federal elections had "to a large part been decided" on economic issues.

The opinion polls show voters have lost faith in the conservatives' ability to solve economic problems, particularly unemployment; but they do not show a corresponding belief that the Social Democrats can do better.

One of the Münster congress's main tasks was to remedy that, which meant jettisoning a considerable amount of ideological baggage — not as much as Herr Oskar Lafontaine, aged 44, the deputy chairman and spearhead of the "new thinking" would like, but a start was made.

The main resolution on economic policy speaks of "promoting entrepreneurial activity and performance". Both Herr Vogel and Herr Lafontaine referred to the need for healthy profits in industry.

And rather than calling for indiscriminately high taxes, which could then be distributed by the State, the resolution foresees a Social Democrat government reforming the tax system to steer the economy.

"The goal," said the resolution, "must be to relieve the

tax burden on profits which are reinvested for the protection and creation of jobs, and to so tax profits not productively reinvested that the effect on the Budget is balanced."

Before his speech introducing the economic motion, Herr Lafontaine was regarded as the "crown prince", the man who would almost certainly be the Social Democrats' candidate to challenge Chancellor Kohl in the 1990 general election — providing he is re-elected Premier of the Saarland State earlier the same year.

But on Wednesday he impulsively and quite deliberately provoked the trade-union wing, which he sees as the main obstacle to change.

The following day he paid the price: in being re-elected deputy chairman Herr Lafontaine received a poor 68 per cent of the vote. It does not end his hopes, but it has dampened them.

Likewise, the almost unprecedented result achieved by Herr Vogel, aged 62, in his re-election as chairman with 98.8 per cent, increases his chances of again leading the party, this time into the 1990 elections.

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## The prodigal arrives with a second wife

By Victor Zorza and Venu Sandal

The return of the prodigal who had gone to town to seek his fortune set tongues wagging. The expensive clothes, contrasting loudly with village attire, spoke of wealth, but instead of boasting about his exploits, Taji Ram kept silent. Did he have something to hide?

Mimo's elation at her husband's return soon gave way to concern. The only riches he seemed to have brought back were the clothes he wore. Twice she had seen him in secret conversations with men from other villages.

Then, suddenly, towards the end of the week, Taji Ram was flush with money and awash in drink. "I'm celebrating," he said to villagers who helped him to stagger back to his hut. "Stay and drink with me, friends. I have sold my land and I have arranged for a smart new wife who knows the world. This one," he stuttered drunkenly, motioning towards a shocked Mimo, "I'm throwing out."

His younger brother, Tika Ram, finally managed to prise the details out of him. It was scant consolation to learn that Taji Ram had not sold all the land — only the best bit, below the new road to the village — and that for a price just a quarter of its real value. Tika Ram just couldn't understand. It was no use talking to Taji Ram, now drunk more often than not. "Why does he have to bring a second wife? Mimo does more work than three women combined. And if he's selling his land, there'll be less work, not more."

Unlike the fanfare of a first wedding, the arrival of a second wife — villagers can have as many as they like — is a subdued affair. Bamo, Taji Ram's new wife, resented being out of the limelight and objected to the respect accorded to Mimo. When there was a wedding feast in an adjoining village, Taji Ram, now jestingly called "the town man", took Bamo along and showed her off. He ignored Mimo's protests.

Soon Taji Ram, egged on by Bamo, took to beating Mimo when drunk. The neighbours, used to the sound of constant beatings, dismissed it as merely another fight when they heard Taji Ram's wives screaming one evening. But when Taji Ram's own shouts for help and unfamiliar voices were added to the din, the neighbours ran to his hut. Three middle-aged men were hitting Taji Ram in the face. They threw him down in a senseless heap and turned on the confused villagers blocking the doorway.

"Yours is the first village where we've had this kind of double-dealing," one of them said angrily. "We have heard that it happens in town, but in villages here — never. This cheating abuser of his mother-in-law has sold the same bit of land to all three of us. He thought he could dupe us because each of us is from a different village."

The village elders disclaimed all responsibility. "When you struck the deal with Taji

Ram, none of you checked with us. Each of you was probably laughing up your sleeve at getting the land at one-fourth of its real value." One of the elders said and shrugged his shoulders.

But they couldn't close their eyes to Mimo's problem. Month after month, she told them, she had put up with the insults, the drunken beatings, hoping that in time Taji Ram would shed his city illusions and see reason. Even Bamo she could tolerate, but she would not put up with the tricky ways her husband had learnt in town. If he was going to make deals like selling the same piece of land to three different people, she would have none of it. She wanted to be free of him.

The elders mulled over her demand. Taji Ram, so full of promise before he went to town, was now a lost cause. If only he hadn't gone, Mimo and the two children wouldn't



have become innocent victims of his waywardness. If Taji Ram didn't stop his drinking, the elders decided, Mimo would be free to leave him.

He did stop — for a while. When he resumed, she made ready to leave, but villagers urged her to stick it out: if she left, she and her children would lose the land that was theirs by right. Mimo was undecided. Should she submit, accept the beatings, as so many women did, and suffer in silence for the sake of the land she had nurtured all these years?

She made her choice. She would give it one last try. But the ill-treatment continued. The elders had to intervene again. Taji Ram, they announced, must make some land over to Mimo, and she would be free to stay or go.

Now it was Taji Ram who was trapped. If Mimo left him, she might marry again — but would remain owner of part of his land. Yet again he promised to reform, swearing by the salt — a solemn vow which, if broken, would bring down the wrath of the gods upon him. But the elders were no longer prepared to trust him and insisted on a foolproof agreement. In their presence, he signed a document transferring the land to her.

Will he keep to it? Some villagers think not. But Mimo has the children, the land, the goodwill of the village and the support of the elders. She has won — and she knows it.

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Next Saturday: The village is caught in a trap



# Jaruzelski set for a ritual sacrifice of Warsaw ministers

From Richard Bassett, Warsaw

The Government of Poland is likely to resign during next week's session of the Sejm (Parliament). This became clear in Warsaw yesterday as industrial unrest throughout the country showed signs of ending at the weekend.

"Their time is up," one senior official said yesterday, adding that it was unlikely that General Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, would permit retribution for the latest wave of strikes to fall solely on the shoulders of Mr Zbigniew Messner, the Prime Minister.

Although some strikers yesterday had still not returned to work in the north-western port of Szczecin, Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, urged miners at the Silesian coalmine Manifest Lipowcy to end their two-week-old strike.

Elsewhere in the country, the situation was calm.

The potentially dangerous discovery on Thursday night of a fatally wounded militia officer in the strike-hit steel works at Stalowa Wola did not produce any escalation in tension there, and the strikes ended yesterday morning.

Mr Walesa's ability to persuade the Government to

reconsider the banning of the Solidarity movement is being seen by workers in Poland as an important concession. Some believe, however, that more could be gained by continuing the strikes.

If the Government does resign next week, it would seem more than likely that the post of deputy prime minister will go to a "reformist" acceptable to both the authorities and the opposition.

The most eligible candidate would be the Roman Catholic Church mediator, Professor Andrzej Stelmachowski, whose role has been crucial in bringing Mr Walesa and the Minister of the Interior, General Czeslaw Kiszczak, to the negotiating table.

Professor Stelmachowski is a moderate and would therefore act as a brake on the more irresponsible elements in Solidarity. He is also a greatly respected figure among the Catholic hierarchy in Poland.

At the forthcoming "round table" talks between Solidarity and the Government, two Catholic priests will always be present "at the invitation of both parties". Their participation expresses the Govern-

ment's hopes that the talks will create an atmosphere of consensus necessary to solve Poland's economic problems.

While the Church is unlikely to be a leading protagonist in the talks, its weight will prove a decisive factor in breaking the inevitable stalemates which will arise.

It is a role which mystifies Moscow, which is watching the crisis with growing concern. The Soviet Embassy here has predictably only the most formal of contacts with the Church, which in its turn has as little to do with the Russians as possible.

In the three-sided negotiations, Moscow has therefore been offered a narrow field of vision which few imagine could have kept pace with the events of the past few weeks.

The resignation of the Polish Government may well come as a surprise to Mr Gorbachev who less than six weeks ago strolled through Polish streets with many of the Government's members.

Their ritual sacrifice next week will be viewed with as much concern in the Kremlin as it will be in some party circles here.

## Soviet optimism in Peking



Mr Igor Rogachev, a Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, in Peking after talks with China on Cambodia which, he said, "had widened understanding".

## KGB claims US set nuclear 'bug' on seabed

From A Correspondent, Moscow

The head of the Soviet secret police, the KGB, says that the United States planted nuclear-powered devices on the seabed to monitor international telephone calls in and out of the Soviet Union, *Pravda* said yesterday.

Offering a rare peak at Soviet counter-intelligence operations, Mr Viktor Chebrikov, said in an interview with the Communist Party daily that his agents had caught 20 spies in the past two and a half years, some of them within the KGB's own ranks.

The 65-year-old member of the party's ruling Politburo made it clear that despite the warming trend in East-West relations, the Cold War continues between super-power intelligence agencies.

He denounced Western "attempts" to set up a political opposition to the Communist Party in the Soviet Union, throwing his weight behind the powerful Conservative backlash during the absence of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, from Moscow.

Mr Chebrikov, a close ally of Mr Yegor Ligachov, the Kremlin Number 2, who has taken a high profile during Mr Gorbachev's month-long vacation, charged in a full page article that Western intelli-

gence services were trying to foster political opposition in the Soviet Union through "some independent groupings basically hostile to perestroika".

He was clearly referring to the Democratic Union, a dissident group which last May set up the first political party to challenge Communist Party supremacy. A demonstration organized by the Democratic Union to mark the 20th anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia was brutally put down by police on August 21.

Mr Chebrikov's remarks could also be interpreted as a reference to nationalists in the Baltic states condemned by the *Pravda* earlier this week as "demagogues" with "anti-socialist" aims.

But Mr Chebrikov fell short of launching an all-out attack on the informal groups which Mr Gorbachev has encouraged as long as they come within tightly defined guidelines and are not "anti-Soviet" in nature.

The KGB chief emphasized that in the current climate of democratization the security police had no intention of abandoning its task of suppressing "anti-Soviet activities".

## Exiled journalists fear murder by Ceausescu agents

By Anatol Lieven

Fears of a murder campaign by President Ceausescu's secret service are growing among the Romanian exile community in West Germany.

The supposed targets are journalists broadcasting to Romania from Radio Free Europe, the American-backed station based in Munich. The supposed method is cancer-inducing radiation - the rumoured *Plan Rada*.

The management of the radio says there is at present no concrete proof of this - a view shared by West German counter-intelligence.

Romanians at the station are, however, deeply concerned. The immediate cause of their concern is the discovery of a brain tumour in the director of the Romanian Service, Mr Vlad Georgescu, who is in America for treatment. The reason for suspicion is that his two immediate predecessors also died of cancer. Both were convinced that the disease had been artificially induced.

In past years, there have been open attacks on Romanian émigrés in several countries. In Munich in 1975, Ion Chiriac of Radio Free Europe was stabbed to death. In 1982, the deputy director of the Romanian service, Emil Georgescu, was stabbed by two French "hit-men" in a park, and narrowly survived. He died of cancer two years later.

In 1984, West Germany expelled five Romanian diplomats over a plot to blow up the radio's headquarters. Three years earlier, a bomb demolished the building.

Several of the foreign-language services are used to receiving threatening telephone calls, assumed to be inspired by the secret services of the countries involved.

A senior member of the Romanian Service in Munich told *The Times*: "We're used to dealing with this kind of strain. Many of us have been threatened. It's our day to day life. If Mr Georgescu dies it will be just one more thing."

Not very long ago, as exile sources admit, the idea of

murder by radiation would have seemed the stuff of fantasy. However, in 1978, Georgi Markov, a senior journalist with the Bulgarian Service of the BBC in London who also wrote for Radio Free Europe, died of acute septicaemia after a poisoned pellet had been fired into his leg, apparently from an umbrella.

At the same time, an identical dart was found in Mr Vladimir Kostov, a Bulgarian working for Radio Free Europe in Paris, who survived the attack. A third Bulgarian, at the BBC, was killed in an apparently accidental fall at his home.

Rumours of the use of doses of radiation by the Romanian secret service have been circulating in Romania for at least six years. The only direct evidence, however, comes in a book of memoirs published earlier this year, *Red Horizons*, by Lieutenant-General Ion Mihail Pacepa who, until his defection in 1978, was head of the Romanian Foreign Intelligence Service.

He speaks of a *Plan Rada*, whereby enemies of the Ceausescu regime at home and abroad are liquidated by means of radiation-induced cancer. Pacepa says that the name was chosen by President Ceausescu himself, and that he ordered its use against Radio Free Europe staff. Pacepa does not, however, say how and in what form it is actually employed in the field.

It is apparently rumoured in Romania that *Plan Rada* has been used to cause "natural" death in some of the leaders of the workers' riot in Brasov last year, who are said to have since disappeared.

Many Romanian exiles and experts in the West, however, advise extreme caution in reading Pacepa. His book is generally assumed to have been ghost-written for him by his mentors, the American CIA. Its central intention is clearly to discredit President Ceausescu, and still more to damage the chances of succession of his presumed heirs, his wife, Elena, and son, Nicu.

## Long voyage over

Avalon, New Jersey (AP) - A London man, aged 75, who spent three months sailing the Atlantic to reach the United States, said he had no worries of getting lost. "If you are going to the west, it's hard to miss America," said Mr Stefan Szwarzowski. He left Rochester on board the 24ft Tawny Pipit on June 7 and had to contend with high winds, choppy waters and a broken motor on his voyage. Mr Szwarzowski, who came to England from Poland 40 years ago, was sighted off the New Jersey coast near Townsend's Inlet.

## Left fuming

Bonn (Reuters) - Two West German holidaymakers who lit up in an American plane's no smoking area were dumped in Alaska by an irate captain and forced to spend a week there, *Bild* said.

## Physicist dies

Berkeley (Reuters) - Mr Luis Walter Alvarez, aged 77, a Nobel physics laureate who helped build the first atomic bomb, has died at his home in Berkeley, California, from complications of cancer, his son said. *Obituary*, page 12

## Switched on

Athens (AP) - Power has been restored to most of Greece after a grid failure in the north plunged Athens and southern Greece in darkness for several hours.

## Captives freed

Geneva (AP) - Nearly 3,800 captives taken in fighting between Somalia and Ethiopia have been flown home, most of them Ethiopian prisoners from the 1977-78 conflict over the Ogaden region, the Red Cross said.

## Daring swim

West Berlin (Reuters) - Two East German men escaped to West Berlin by swimming across the Havel river in the north of the divided city, police said.

## Record prize

Tallahassee (AP) - Florida has boosted the jackpot for its state lottery to \$52 million (£30.5 million), a world record for lotteries where a single winner can win the whole prize.

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# TIMES DIARY

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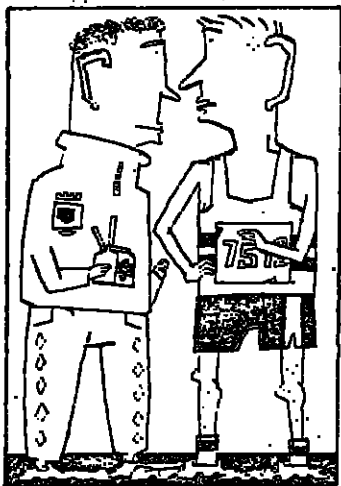
New York  
Last week, I was telling you about William "The Refrigerator" Perry, the American football player who has heroically starved himself down to a weight of 23 stone. The poor fellow is not only a shadow of his former self, but is also this week exposed as nothing but a midge. You ask Jeremy Lowery, who plays as defensive tackle for St Clair County High. He too has been losing weight, and has shed 13lb, all of which leaves him at a trim, mobile 500lb, or 35st 10lb if you prefer. He stands at 5ft 11in. Lowery's diet secret would appeal to jockeys driven mad by wasting: he has switched to Diet Coke, started walking a mile every day and has cut down from three cheeseburgers a night to two. His coach said: "He gets around faster than any 500-pounder I've ever seen."

Meanwhile, over in Seoul, the Olympic organizers are having an Iranian crisis of their own. The opening ceremony involves the 177 competing nations marching about the track, each one led by a Korean woman carrying a placard that bears the country's name. What, say the Iranians, march behind a woman? You must be joking. No chance. We will march behind men, yes, but no woman. So step forward Bae Jeoung-An, a 24-year-old honour guard from the Korean army headquarters — the only man in a crowd of 176 women. "It was embarrassing at first," he said. "But I am getting accustomed to it."

The Canadian National Football League (which plays gridiron, not soccer, of course) is waging war on sexism. Gone is the old beauty contest, in which contestants had to be between 18 and 24 and single. They no longer parade in swimsuits or cheerleaders' costumes, and it is no longer true that the best dancer will always win. Now contestants will appear in dresses or business outfits, and each one will have to deliver a five-minute lecture on what her local team means to the community. The current Miss Ottawa Rough Rider, Cindy Van Buskirk, said: "I think it's long overdue. The contest has had more to do with beauty than with speaking or brains, or knowledge."

I hear of an event that can probably claim to be the least successful charity stunt ever held. It was a boxing match between George Foreman and Frank "Gator" Williams, and it took place in Anchorage, Alaska. It was supposed to raise money for a charity called Missing Children of America. It was shown on television, and it was one of those television things, you ring in, you pledge money. There was, however, an unfortunate oversight by the organizers: they forgot to tell you where to send the money. Somehow or other, they managed to raise \$739, a miracle, really. But there are various outstanding items on the promotion, like an \$8,000 bill for satellite time. Foreman did it for a purse of \$30,000. Joe Capetti, the organizer, has been "on vacation" for two months since it all went so hideously wrong. Dolly Whaley, from the charity, said: "The whole thing is weird. Someone wasn't being straight from the beginning." She says no blame on Capetti, and adds: "It may bankrupt us. It was a learning experience, and education doesn't come cheap."

BARRY FANTONI



'My coach is not a lot of good, but I've got an excellent chemist'

The US Open tennis tournament is in full swing here, and television people are looking more and more twitchy. The ratings for the competition have fallen 37 per cent in two years. This has been the more optimistic think it is the new way of measuring audiences that is to blame. The problem, said Tony Trabert of CBS, is: "There were simply no American players the fans want to watch. We like to have a rooting interest and a lot of people don't know who the players are." Where would Wimbledon be, I wonder, if we Brits only wanted to watch our own? In tennis we are internationalists. CBS admit they are pinning serious hopes for the future on the spectacular Andre Agassi, who is 18, plays in denim shorts, and shines with charm and good manners.

A few of us have criticized Peter May this summer for what we see as a bizarre mismanagement of a sporting team. If May feels hard done by, he should try swapping places with George Steinbrenner, principal owner of the New York Yankees. Steinbrenner subsists on a daily diet of abuse: he is constantly railed at and accused of high-handedness, megalomania, crass dealing on player trading, disruptiveness, publicity seeking, and insensitivity to baseball's demands. More a football than a baseball man, they say, and they mean it to sting by God. When Steinbrenner hasn't been slugging off his own players, he has been doing things like talking about bringing back Reggie Jackson — rather like bringing in Dennis Compton to solve England's problems. (Come to think of it...) Steinbrenner has also been talking about trading his team star, the first base man Don Mattingly. The demoralized Yankees promptly lost six games on the trot. But Steinbrenner doesn't hate all his players: "There are some heroes on this team. Rafael Santana has been in pain all year, and he's played. I'd like to have that kid on a football field."

What has happened in Poland this week is, in political terms, remarkable. Seven-and-a-half years after declaring Lech Walesa "a former leader of a former Solidarity union", the government has been forced to invite him to the negotiating table as a "representative of a sizeable social force". However, in conversations with striking workers there is little jubilation, nor even any sense of achievement. There is no trace of the national euphoria that greeted the ending of earlier strikes. The predominant mood is determination to achieve tangible results. A promise of talks about talks is not satisfactory for the majority of strikers, as Lech Walesa, the leader of Solidarity, was the first to learn.

The mass meeting in the Gdansk shipyard at first rejected his proposal that the strike should be ended. Only after much persuasion did the strikers vote by a slim majority, to end the sit-in. The vote was a warning that if Walesa wants to deliver the workers' part of the agreement, he had better make sure the authorities deliver theirs.

After the bitter lessons of

## Solidarity steps forward

martial law and the outlawing of what was originally a legal trade union, there are no blank cheques to be written for the regime's good intentions. The prevailing feeling among the workers is deep mistrust of the authorities.

Early on in the strikes, the authorities cut off all telephone and telex links between the striking regions in an attempt to prevent the adoption of a common platform and tactics. But if the authorities intended to ensnare the strikers by exploiting regional differences, the plan backfired.

Now the official decision to hold talks has been taken, the authorities face the prospect of a series of inconclusive, protracted negotiations, with no guarantee that the success in Gdansk will be recognized as such elsewhere. Since 1981, a new generation has entered the Polish labour market. Deteriorating living conditions, constant food shortages and the lack of decent housing

make young workers impatient for change. An ossified political system that allows them no say in decision-making breeds an "all or nothing" attitude. Not for them the niceties of bargaining and the give and take of the political game.

Solidarity can combine youthful militancy with the considerable political experience that has been acquired by workers' leaders like Walesa over the past seven years. This means that if the authorities are genuinely interested in starting a dialogue, it should proceed more smoothly, from the procedural point of view, than it did the first time around in 1980-81. Still, there is no guarantee that the old accusations of Solidarity wanting too much too soon will not reappear. Try asking a bird whether it wants to be let out of its cage in instalments.

There are plenty of things the authorities must do before serious negotiations can begin. Even as Lech Walesa was sitting down

with the Interior Minister, General Kiszczak, public prosecutors in the southern town of Walbrzych were handing out court summonses to the local strike leaders. Several Solidarity activists have been given prison sentences by the infamous "Kolegium" petty offence tribunals. Most of the strikes "abandoned" last week were, in fact, brutally broken by the Zomo riot police. It will be something of an achievement to place both the perpetrators of such police action and the victims around the same negotiating table.

Strike leaders from Jastrzebie were this week described in official parlance as "the spent politicians of yesterday". Will they be able to trust their sudden metamorphosis into partners in the "national dialogue of reconciliation"? The emergence of General Kiszczak as the main official negotiator is significant. On the one hand, the authorities are letting it be known that the

ending of the strikes is a policing rather than a political problem. On the other, Kiszczak himself, with his studied aura of the "stinking man's thug", has long been putting out feelers to opposition leaders. Is he making himself available, perhaps, were Jaruzelski to go?

Kiszczak's offer of round-table discussions with the Polish opposition "with no pre-conditions" still carries the condition that Poland's constitutional order must be recognized. But the constitution of the Polish People's Republic is recognized today by almost the entire opposition, including the right-of-centre KPN party. Who is to decide which groupings will sit around this table?

For seven years, the communist authorities claimed that Solidarity was not a trade union, but a political opposition. Now they can no longer employ the ruse that the negotiations with Lech Walesa concern only internal, trade union, or economic

matters. The talks will be seen as primarily political. This is an entirely new element, with consequences which could be even more far-reaching than the actual emergence of Solidarity in 1980.

The inclusion of Bishop Dabrowski in the preliminary meeting indicates that the role of the Church in the political changes to come will be more than that of a detached moral arbiter. Nor can the international dimension of the crisis be overlooked, given Poland's proximity to the now-rebellious Soviet Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

Shortly after declaring martial law in December 1981, General Jaruzelski stated that in politics one cannot put the clock back. He was certainly right, but his own attempts to stop it have failed. He has been forced to run against it. Now, after so long, Solidarity has got its foot in the door of official political life. Time alone will tell what lies on the other side.

**Marek Garztecki**  
The author is director of the Voice of Solidarity Information Centre in London.

## After the DPP's decision on 'The Last Temptation of Christ' Owen Hickey examines the difficulties that for centuries have surrounded prosecutions for blasphemy

# When Christianity was law

The Director of Public Prosecutions may have decided against throwing the law of blasphemy at *The Last Temptation of Christ*, but that need not stop someone attempting to bring a private prosecution. Anyone who does decide on such a course, however, will have to show that the film addresses the subject of God, Jesus Christ, the Bible or the formularies of the Church of England in a vilifying or scurrilous way. That much at least appears to be definite about this almost abandoned outpost of the law (a dead letter, Lord Denning said prematurely in 1949). It is not so much the substance of an attack on things sacred as its manner that forms the offence. But if that is now the position, it took the common law a long time to get there.

After the secular courts had taken over blasphemy from the ecclesiastical courts at the Restoration in 1660 the judges went at it with a will. In the first adequately reported case (1676) Chief Justice Hale laid it down that "to say 'religion is a cheat' is to dissolve all the obligations by which civil societies are preserved, and Christianity being parcel of the laws of England, therefore, to reproach the Christian religion is to speak in subversion of the law."

The slow growth of toleration caused the judges to pull back a bit from that full doctrine, solemn and measured refutations of Christian belief were sometimes allowed to pass while more vulgar assaults were punished. This slippage occurred without the judges, apparently, seeing that it was the rationale of the law that controversy of the established religion dissolved the bonds of civil society and therefore merited punishment, then serious and weighty argument was more deadly in the long run than vulgar abuse and therefore more needed to be checked.

For much of the 19th century the contradiction between the practice of toleration and the principle on which the law about blasphemy still stood generated controversy inside and outside the law courts. The details of the controversy are now tedious, but



it did throw off a gem of polemics it would be a pity to lose sight of altogether.

*Considerations on the Law of Libel as relating to Publications on the subject of Religion*, a pamphlet of 52 pages, was published in London in 1833 under the pseudonym of John Search. The method of argument adopted is the most engaging and effective of all in the armoury of debate: *reductio ad absurdum* of the opponent's positions in a solemn tone that almost conceals its mockery.

The author's conclusion reached was that "the only perfectly good plan — fair in itself, and consistent with the true honour of revealed religion — would be to tolerate an unlimited discussion of the grounds whereon we receive it". The second best plan would be "that which is occasionally said to be adopted by our law — viz., to allow of adverse argumentation, with the proviso of its being soberly and temperately conducted". In the absence of toleration, even in that modified shape, "the third-best mode of procedure would be to *avow* distinctly and uniformly that the law permits no question to be made of the truth of the established religion — in any shape whatever".

But the last "and incomparably worst of all is to have



such prohibitory law in force, but not to avow it distinctly: to keep it carefully in readiness (while only recognizing it) in mingling half-terms or cautious circumlocutions: to talk fluently of toleration... having yet the scabbard and well-sharpened sword under the robe of office for the prosecutors of all arguments on the subject of revealed religion which are not on the privileged side." And that, according to John Search, was the position in 1833.

The author's arguments cannot be presented here, just two examples of the flavour of them. Here is a glimpse of a state functionary, his movements "being in this instance something like those of the spring



ject-matter of legislation... In like manner hares and pheasants have been a subject-matter of legislation; and the existing enactments on that subject are also part or parcel of the law of England. Whether and under what restrictions the evidences of Christianity may be discussed, or a hare or pheasant shot, are questions which can be solved only by reference to the said laws so existing on either subject; but to say summarily of the Christian religion that its truth must not be questioned because it is part of the law of the land is an abuse of terms precisely similar to that of saying that hares and pheasants must not, in such and such cases, be shot because they are part of the laws of England."

Who was the pseudonymous John Search? The catalogue of the London Library gives the honour to Thomas Binney, who was preacher at the Weigh House chapel in the City of London at the time, and later the leading Congregationalist of his day. The British Library and Library of Congress name Richard Whately, Archbishop of Dublin, a Whig and noted controversialist, at one time professor of logic and then political economy at Oxford, and the author of a scheme for a universal currency which he laid before the commissioners of the Great Exhibition of 1851.

I am not in a position to



arbitrate between the claims made on their behalf. But this can be said for Binney. He is known to have used the pseudonym John Search about that time. Furthermore, *Considerations*... lands many of its sharpest blows on the Established Church, and Binney was notorious in his prime for having preached that: "It is with me a matter of deeply held religious conviction that the established church is a great national evil... that it destroys more souls than it saves."

And yet could Binney, who is not, on a very slight acquaintance, specially given to wit or irony, have written this (from *Considerations*...): "The mutual rivalry of dissenters and established clergy augments incalculably the zeal and activity of all; as witness the myriads of rival tracts, wafted by this means, cost free, to the dwellings of the poor throughout the united empire?"

Whately's intellect matches the pamphlet better, but I can find no mention of the affair by either of his two biographers. Though he was notoriously unconventional and rough in manner, what motive would Whately have had in publishing a pseudonymous pamphlet which even he would have had some trouble living down had the cover been broken, when he had been made archbishop two years previously and was introduced to the House of Lords the year the pamphlet came out?

But there is a sliver of evidence pointing the other way. A rejoinder to the pamphlet was issued, and the rejoinder was in turn answered by the Reverend Joseph Blanco White, author of the anthologized column, "Why do we then shun death with anxious strife? If Light can thus deceive wherefore not Life?" Blanco White was domestic tutor in Archbishop Whately's household until he turned Socinian and withdrew.

Perhaps there is a smoking gun somewhere that removes all question about the authorship. But my own impression is that *Considerations*... has too much of the stamp of the free-thinker on it to belong naturally to either of the official candidates.

## Commentary • PETER BRIMELOW

# Quayle may not lay an egg

New York  
American presidential politics is one of the great blood sports, followed avidly all over the world. Recently, puzzled ghouls in other countries called to ask me in disappointed tones why Senator Dan Quayle has not yet been publicly knackered.

I was quite taken aback. The possibility of this entertaining spectacle was fleeting, and within 48 hours of the Republican convention's close was generally recognized to have definitively fled.

Bush still might unchose Quayle as his vice-presidential nominee, of course, if something shows up during the present searchlight scrutiny of Quayle's past, already endured by all presidential contenders with the exception of Jesse Jackson: or just possibly if Quayle is utterly unable to master his initial nervousness and becomes an unprecedented liability on the campaign trail. But with even a minimal aptitude for keeping out of trouble — and Quayle after all is a veteran of four elections — he should survive.

Recognition of this reality may have failed to penetrate beyond the US border, I believe, for a reason to do with the sophisticated news-gathering techniques employed by trained journalists in foreign countries: they buy local newspapers and watch local television in their hotel rooms.

There's a lot to be said for this

approach in America, where there are virtually no secrets except what simply gets buried and overlooked in the incredible volume of published material. But it has an important drawback: the elite media here, from which journalists around the country take their cue, is entirely dominated by liberal Democrats. There is simply no equivalent to Britain's Tory quality papers. Even the *Wall Street Journal*, whose editorial pages are conservative, is run by political liberals on its news side, with the curious result that the paper is often conducting violent public arguments with itself.

The difficulty this poses for foreigners is not so much that the American media elite is biased, but that it is sociologically unrepresentative. The political culture of elite groups, the sort of thing political scientists like to study, and a considerable amount of impartial academic research is now available to demonstrate this divergence.

It is ably summarized in William A. Rusher's book *The Coming Battle for the Media*, just published here by Morrow. For example, the so-called "Lichter-Rothman" survey of the four presidential elections from 1964 to 1976 revealed that although the Republicans won twice and lost narrowly once — and although Richard Nixon won them 61 per cent of the vote in 1972 — the proportion of the media elite voting for the Demo-

cratic candidate was never less than 80 per cent.

My guess is that many political reporters were sincerely surprised when opinion polls showed that the public did not share their excitement over how Dan Quayle got into the National Guard — and absolutely amazed at Bush's post-convention lead. But by that time, their earlier certainty has been transmitted to the world through the filter of the foreign press. And it takes root there, because people's scepticism about reporting falls off remarkably quickly about things they cannot check against their own experience.

Having offered this understanding explanation, I might also say that there was a considerable element of raw partisanship in the reception Quayle received.

To gauge this, it is helpful to be familiar with an American institution called the *Almanac of American Politics*, a massively detailed and studiously impartial compendium covering presidential and congressional elections state by state. It is the sort of thing that people who like reading Wisden (or the old Bradshaws) would adore, and it is as much standard issue for political journalists here as the *Who's Who* for policemen. Yet on this occasion, they seem to have preferred bare knuckles.

The current issue of the *Almanac*, published last year, marked a considerable advance

for Quayle. It said he was "one of the most active and successful" of the Republican Senators elected in 1980 — and that he "worked harder and accomplished more than almost anyone expected".

It also noted that he had made Indiana "an apparently safe Senate seat" and that he won re-election in 1986 by a record margin, a very respectable achievement. "It seems apparent by now," it concluded, "that Quayle is not just a political accident, but a fortunate young man with good political instincts."

"We haven't heard much about those good political instincts — or anything else positive."

One thing they are hearing about, interestingly, is Quayle's wife Marilyn. She has given a good account of herself in interviews — citing Rusher's book on national television — with the result that she is being described as the "brains of the family". Quayle himself tells a story of being introduced somewhere as "a great, great, great American" and subsequently wondering to his wife how many such paragraphs there were. She replied: "One less than you think, buddy boy."

"Behind every great man," the wife of Canadian Prime Minister Lester Pearson once remarked, "there stands an astonished woman." Perhaps Mrs Quayle, and the world press corps, are in for a surprise.

## SEPT 3 ON THIS DAY 1903

Jamaica periodically suffers severe damage from hurricanes. On this occasion the town of Port Antonio on the northern coast was almost entirely destroyed.

## THE JAMAICA HURRICANE

A correspondent writes: Amongst the accounts of the storm which are beginning to reach this country from those who actually experienced it, and who relate only what they saw, few are more thrilling than those which have been received from the little military stations of Newcastle and Greenwich, perched away among the hills 4,000ft. above sea-level.

Most of the houses in that part of the island are built of wood and corrugated iron, on foundations of concrete raised on pillars a couple of feet from the ground. The Artillery mess and a private villa, both constructed on this principle, were lifted bodily from their foundations, themselves blown over and broken like little heaps of sticks, and carried away down the gullies with all their contents. Needless to say the unrehearsed removal caused complete destruction. A sideboard in the officers' dining-room alone escaped from that building, and that in an eccentric manner. This bulky piece of furniture elected to leave the house on its own account and, bursting through the door of the already rocking mess, was instantly whirled ten yards or more down the road, whence it was subsequently recovered. The

military hospital adjoining had half its roof blown away, a part being deposited with a tremendous crash at the door of the officers' ward. The men's ward was flooded out, 26 patients being hastily removed in the darkness to other and less aqueous quarters, while two officers' wives, one suffering with fever, were driven into the garden in their night garments owing to the unroofing of their apartment. Wood and iron from all these buildings, after being blown some distance, were in several instances driven into the ground with such violence that they could not be removed without mechanical aid. The hillside between Greenwich and Newcastle on Saturday a mass of verdure, was by Monday completely stripped, many of even the great trees actually whirled for a short distance through the air. The wreckage of many homes strewn the whole district, while here and there the gite of a house is simply bare, nothing visible remaining to suggest the existence of a human dwelling, so complete has been the destruction of walls and furniture which followed the caving in of the concrete foundations. At Greenwich considerable hardship was suffered for some 12 hours, owing to the impossibility of conveying help or stores, all routes being closed and impassable. Even the Army doctor in charge of the station was driven back to his Newcastle quarters without being able to reach his hospital and other patients at Greenwich, where, however, his subordinates was available. A landship had blotted out one road, another was torn up to a depth in parts of 4ft by the violence of the tropical rain.





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## CRICHEL AND CLOWES

Who should pay the account for the Barlow Clowes affair? The reckoning belongs, of course, to the principals of the company, whose actions may be punished by the courts; also to the investors, whose optimistic entry into the marketplace has already brought them financial penalty. Responsibility also lies with the city regulators, whose systems have now been changed; and with Civil Servants within the Department of Trade and Industry, who now await the report of the Le Quesne committee into their stewardship.

Until the revelations in *The Times* this week, however, little attention had been paid to the politicians to whom those officials are, notionally, answerable. That is partly because so much time has gone by. Mr Tebbit, a former Secretary for Trade and Industry has moved to the back benches. Mr Brittan, ditto, is bound for Brussels. Sir Alex Fletcher, a junior minister, is selling financial advice; others still in Government now have different jobs.

But the reason why the spotlight did not pick up the politicians was also the imprecision, the vagueness, of the doctrine of ministerial responsibility for the actions of their departmental officials. No minister has had to go on account of Civil Servants' misdeeds since the hapless Sir Thomas Dugdale in 1954. And yet, as the Crichton Down affair recedes ever further into history, the doctrine of universal ministerial responsibility is still trotted out as the rule, reappearing as recently as 1986 in the Government's response to the Treasury and Civil Service Committee's inquiry into the duties of ministers and Civil Servants.

It is worth recalling the exact words: "ministers are responsible and accountable for all actions carried out by Civil Servants of their departments in pursuit of policies or in the discharge of responsibilities laid upon them by Parliament." Applied rigorously, the rule makes the current Industry Secretary, Lord Young, responsible even after the lapse of time.

To suggest that taking responsibility involves resignation is ludicrous. But the doctrine is perilously weak on what, short of a minister's head, the public can expect from the process of accountability. The doctrine ur-

gently needs restating in modern terms. This is no academic question. The Government is busy creating "executive agencies" to improve the management of its business. The Government's own Efficiency Unit was honest enough in the report, *The Next Steps*, to observe that this development requires major alteration in the distribution of responsibilities between minister and official, requiring no less than the elevation of named executive Civil Servants to public prominence and public accountability.

As a matter of practical fact, Civil Servants make decisions, whether they are announced to the public over a minister's signature or not. To attempt to make ministers account to Parliament and public for those decisions is, the efficiency scrutineers said, a recipe for ministerial "overload".

At this point the Government might be expected to turn to its senior officials for the practical circumstances of government in the 1980s. But here ministers pay the price for the contemporary docility of the mandarinate.

The word, as brought down from the mountain by the former Head of the Civil Service, Lord Armstrong, is a rapid restatement of the doctrine of complete ministerial responsibility. Lord Armstrong's successor as Head of the Civil Service has yet shown little sign of wanting to engage himself in the controversial business of revisionism.

Nothing is available except the Government's previous insistence, in principle, in the Westland affair, that officials are individually immune from parliamentary supervision. Alongside that, in its thinking about executive agencies, is the practical acceptance that named Civil Servants will have to answer for their work.

Such a state of affairs is unsatisfactory. Taking responsibility for one's actions, be they economic or social, has been one of the Prime Minister's great cries, and a welcome one in the 1980s. When things go wrong — as they manifestly have in the Barlow Clowes affair — responsibility has to be identified in Whitehall, too, whether it properly belongs to the politician or his servant.

## OPPORTUNITY MISSED

High hopes had been invested in the Amateur Athletic Association report on drug abuse in the sport. Although the inquiry into the rumour-ravaged world of runners and throwers was never going to be easy, the AAA had appointed a determined and well-qualified team led by a man who had done much to curb drug abuse in his own sport of rowing, Mr Peter Coni, QC.

Those hopes have not been met. The Coni report fails properly to deal with "the wider allegations of drug abuse within British athletics", the second part of its terms of reference in addition to its brief to investigate the specific allegations raised by *The Times*. Mr Coni's panel states that drug-taking in British athletics is far less prevalent now than it was between 1976 and 1982. But they have insufficient evidence to make such a statement stick. They talked to former athletes but refused to guarantee the necessary confidentiality to those still taking part.

Investigations all over the world regularly depend on the ability of those conducting them to talk to those "in the know" on a confidential basis or, in more serious cases, on the understanding that they can be granted immunity. The panel did not have the power to summon witnesses, cross-examine them, and threaten them if they refused to answer questions. The committee should have recognized this and instead offered total confidentiality over specific allegations against individuals named over drug taking.

The corollary of any such guarantee of confidentiality would have been that, except in the case of specific allegations against the

athletics officials named in *The Times*, the committee would not name names and would couch its findings in general terms. The extent of drug taking in athletics would be made known but not those allegedly responsible. As it was, the panel interviewed too few people. Its conclusions cannot carry the weight needed.

The picture of the sport that emerges is not a pretty one. The rules seem to have been open to abuse; its rulers susceptible to intimidation, particularly by Eastern bloc nations. The first may now have changed; the second attitude may be harder to deal with.

Mr Andy Norman, a top AAA official, is quoted on the "high level of expert advice" required before "banned drugs were used to stimulate performance". Of one man named in *The Times* investigation which spurred the inquiry, Mr Norman says: "I wouldn't put myself in jeopardy for an athlete of his standard". If not for him, then for whom?

While finding fault with *The Times* on a number of specific cases, the report makes no attempt to investigate specific cases of its own. It restricts itself to a mixture of generalizations, ranging from acceptance of "the serious level of use of drugs at present", acceptance of the likelihood of it increasing again if steps are not taken, and the conclusion that "British athletics is enjoying a notable recession in the level of drug use".

Such generalizations could have been backed by knowledge. Instead they are backed only by the instincts of a team which gives every impression of putting the good of present athletes and officials over the good of the sport and its future.

## VOTING FOR THE GENERAL

President Pinochet of Chile does not normally have to care much for opinion polls. But in the run-up to next month's national plebiscite upon his continued rule, he does have to care. They are running heavily against him. Hence, it can be safely said, his decision to allow the return of political exiles.

To bring back to Chile the Marxists and other opponents whose views (not to mention their bodies) he has so firmly tried to crush may seem a gambler's last throw. But General Augusto Pinochet is no gambler. He has made no secret of his preference to stay in power. His opponents would do well to read the signs.

The measure is seen as of profound importance in Chile. Yesterday's return of the late President Allende's 42-year-old daughter Isabel seemed to some to symbolize a new era for Santiago.

Exactly how new will depend upon the plebiscite, however. On October 5, the Chilean electorate has been asked to decide whether or not it wants General Pinochet to remain in charge. If it votes "yes" the 72-year-old general will stay for another year, pending elections. His critics say, with some justification, that he has tailored the constitution to his advantage.

Although the polls have suggested that he could lose, they are open to widely differing interpretations. The most significant arises from the large number of "don't knows". Enough Chileans to decide the issue have still not yet made up their minds.

This might seem surprising in the Western democracies where Pinochet has been persistently reviled. Though the longest serving Chilean leader since independence 170 years ago, he has held on to power by ruthlessly stamping out all opposition. Human rights have been systematically abused. The grip of the military junta on Santiago has been gradually relaxed in recent months to allow the

referendum to be held. The state of emergency was lifted last week. But, if Pinochet stayed, it could quickly be replaced if he deemed it necessary.

One reason why Chileans might none the less vote "yes" is that the country is booming. Whatever else has been restricted by the dictatorship, the market has been free. A policy of deregulation, privatization and low public spending has flourished in a climate of political stability — however forced.

It was not always thus. In the early 1980s Chile was nearly bankrupt, partly through the Government's own fault and partly because of familiar developing world debt problems. Since the economy hit rock bottom in 1982-83, however, the country has enjoyed a period of steady growth.

Foreign investment has increased, inflation fallen, and unemployment gone down from around 25 per cent to not much more than 8 per cent — all in a country where trade union power has been largely crushed. It has all been something of an embarrassment for the critics.

Chile has paid a high political price. Underlying divisions which have been exacerbated by Pinochet's rule may well cause the economic boom to collapse once the political fist is removed. But that is a question which Pinochet's political opponents have got to address. They have to convince the electorate that they could do better.

So far they have been united by their hatred of his Government. But they are badly divided in other respects and the task of putting together a constructive package of policies, which would build on the success so far achieved, does not look easy.

As he carefully relaxes his grip on the country, and removes his most controversial restraints, General Pinochet is clearly aware of these weaknesses. The general is far from being beaten — and he knows it.

## Paying tribute to old comrades

From Sir Philip Goodhart, MP for Beckenham (Conservative)

Sir, September 3, 1989, will be the 50th anniversary of this country's entry into World War II. Of course, succeeding generations owe a debt of gratitude to all those who served during this war, but we could not have survived in this conflict if it had not been for the men who served in the Armed Forces before the outbreak of the war.

It would be appropriate if we recognised the contribution that these regular servicemen made, on this anniversary of the outbreak of war. At the end of June, 1939 — before mobilisation began — there were some 480,000 people in the Armed Forces. The number of survivors must be fewer than 100,000 and obviously only a handful would be less than 67 years old.

At one end of the scale, it would be pleasant if all these survivors were invited to lunch by the Armed Forces on September 3, 1989 (or September 1, as September 3 falls on a Sunday). The Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force could provide their hospitality at the appropriate bases throughout the country.

Those who had served in the pre-war Regular Army could be entertained by their old regiments or corps (or, of course, the successor unit). Those who knew they were eligible to attend could write in to the appropriate record office in the weeks before the anniversary to apply for an invitation. The cost of refreshments could be underwritten by the Naafi.

On the other end of the scale, it would be appropriate if the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of war was also marked by a substantial increase in the Service pensions of the pre-war ex-Regulars and their widows. It is still sadly true that the pensions of those who served before and during World War II lag far behind those paid to the former Regular soldiers of those countries that we fought against. Yours faithfully, PHILIP GOODHART, House of Commons, August 30.

## Theology on disc

From Mr Conrad H. Gempp

Sir, You may be interested to know with respect to your article, "Electronic epistles of St Paul" (August 29), that theological research has already moved "into the age of the computer". At the Tyndale House Centre for Biblical Research, Cambridge, we have a formidable array of hard and software. One of our computers is able to perform a high-speed search through compact disc containing virtually everything written in Greek up to the 5th century AD (well over 10,000 works, among them, of course, the whole of the New Testament and the Greek translation of the Old).

Another compact disc holds the Hebrew Old Testament and various Latin writings, several English translations of the Bible, and a Greek dictionary. In addition, we have a connection to the university's mainframe computer which has held a grammatically-tagged New Testament database in storage for some years now.

Sincerely, CONRAD H. GEMPP, Tyndale House, 36 Selwyn Gardens, Cambridge, August 30.

## Motorway dangers

From Mr John H. Deam

Sir, The official driving test is an absurdly inadequate preparation for coping with the hazards of the M25 motorway. However, I venture to disagree with Professor Morrison's assertion (August 29) that it is difficult to judge directly a 70-yard distance (i.e., the minimum recommended separation between vehicles in the same lane at 70 mph).

All our motorways have been thoughtfully provided with roadside marker posts at 100-metre (110-yard) intervals. Seventy yards can therefore be easily estimated, being about two thirds of this interval.

This separation would not be enough to prevent all motorway accidents but, if observed, would greatly reduce their number and severity.

Yours faithfully, J. H. DEAM, 94 Northover Road, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, Avon, August 30.

## End of the pier

From the Chairman of the Brighton West Pier Trust

Sir, Mr Ray's state of depression at the condition of the West Pier (August 29) is one often shared by day-trippers to Brighton.

As a charity, we have owned the pier for four years, after its previous owners, the West Pier Company, Brighton Council, and the Crown Estate Commissioners had let it rot for a decade. During our stewardship, we have spent over £500,000 on restoring the pier — not the pretty bits which have instant appeal, but the seriously-imperilled substructure at the seaward end — as well as making a limited start on redecking the landward end.

Last October's storms took their toll of the pier and we had to cut out a weakened section which

## Hospices in partnership with NHS

From Dr. S. Ahmedzai

Sir, There has been recent correspondence in your columns about hospices and their finances, but it has failed to address the fundamental issue which has placed some hospices in a critical position.

Most members of the public are not aware that although about 20 per cent of hospices are operated and funded entirely within the health service, the large majority are "independent" in both organisation and revenue terms. The independence of the British hospice movement, perfectly characterised by Dame Cicely Saunders's pioneering work in the 1960s in the face of conservative medical tradition, is, in my view, at once its greatest asset and flaw.

Now that the Royal College of Physicians have accepted "palliative medicine" (the latest medical label for care of the terminally ill) as a recognised sub-specialty, and with the appointment in many regions of senior nurses in this field, it is really no longer tenable for hospices to remain managerially aloof from the rest of the health-care services.

At Leicester we have a good working example of fruitful co-operation between the "independent" hospice, which was built and is managed by a local charity, and the district health authority. The Leicester Hospice is fortunate to receive 80 per cent of its annual running costs from the DHA, which last year totalled nearly £700,000.

The hospice benefits because its income, and thus services, are assured. The public benefits because its charitable contribu-

tions can then be more usefully deployed into new developments. For the DHA, the relationship provides them with expert palliative care services at a significant discount.

An essential feature of this agreement is that all hospice staff are employed under Whitley Council rules, which ensures that our pay structure and all other terms of service are identical to our colleagues in the NHS. This enables staff who have worked in the hospices to return to the NHS, taking their new expertise with them.

I believe the way forward for all independent hospices, if they really wish to serve their supporters and to protect their staff from exploitation, is to enter into a similar administrative partnership with the NHS.

Similarly, if health authorities are to fulfil their obligations to the public (and incidentally to comply with the Government's circular from 1986 on terminal care provision) they must stop treating hospices as "icing on the cake", and start recognising their major contribution to the overall provision of health care.

If both sides recognised each other's value, it would reduce the need for special pleading over the nurses' pay award and other issues.

Yours faithfully, S. AHMEDZAI (Medical Director and honorary consultant physician), The Leicester Hospice, Groby Road, Leicester, August 26.

## Troubles in Ireland

From Mrs Maureen Gray

Sir, We are told just 200 people cause the terrorism in Northern Ireland but that is not what we see. We all watch thousands walk in support of sectarian violence at funerals and on anniversaries; many are children.

After 20 years of unending troubles and efforts to unite the communities nothing significant seems to be changing. Yet the Government continues to underwrite the most divisive factor of all — the segregated education service.

All over the world integrated, secular education has long been recognised as a most powerful force in creating a national identity from disparate communities; as a taxpayer I want the Government to use this weapon, too.

Yours faithfully, MAUREEN GRAY, The Dolphin Barns, Wigginton, Banbury, Oxfordshire, August 30.

From Mr V. E. J. Holmes Sir, Unarmed British soldiers are killed without mercy by the IRA and Mr Haughey expresses his regrets.

When three armed IRA terrorists, admitted to be on active service, are shot by the security forces he asks for urgent talks on the increasing level of violence (report, September 1).

How is one to interpret this? Yours faithfully, JOHN HOLMES, London, NW2, September 1.

## Rubbish disposal

From Lord Rugby

Sir, In your Spectrum article of August 29, we are informed that the Swiss Government propose sending their unwanted fly ash (burnt waste from power stations) for treatment and disposal in the UK.

A recent report of a House of Lords select committee shows that the CEEG now, and for many years past, has used the waters off the Northumbrian coast for the dumping of fly ash. The effect of this has been to blanket the seabed, causing total destruction of its marine life and, no doubt, adding to the overall toxic burden these waters are expected to absorb.

Your article intimates, also, that we are blessed with stable rock formations, able to provide permanent disposal homes for such products; but surely the Swiss are far more amply blessed than we are in this respect.

In any event, how can we justify the importing of such material into this small island when clearly we are failing to handle an ever-mounting problem in our own backyard.

Yours faithfully, RUGBY, Grove Farm, Frankton, Warwickshire.

threatened to pull down much of the rest of the structure. We have prepared a rescue plan and, granted by English Heritage and the National Heritage Memorial Fund, are about to rebuild the gap.

The total restoration of the pier will cost a minimum of £8.5 million for the substructure and buildings alone. This sum has daunted many of those who would otherwise help us and, although some industries, including British Steel, have helped generously, the scale is altogether greater than that of Queen Mary's dolls' houses advocated as a model by Mr Ray.

Yours faithfully, JOHN SMITH, Chairman, The Brighton West Pier Trust, North West House, 45 West Street, Brighton, East Sussex, August 30.

## Second thoughts on 'Temptation'

From the Secretary of Moral Re-Armament

Sir, A generation ago there was a battle for permissiveness — which still continues — against Christian morality. In that battle literature and art were used to tilt people in the direction of permissiveness. When this was countered the response was always that the offending material was sincere and artistically sound, and that this should override other sensibilities.

It could be argued that, partly because of this tilt to permissiveness, Christ for many seems more distant. Whereas a generation ago there was no attempt to tamper with anything sacred, in all religions now, it seems, this may no longer be so.

The film *The Last Temptation of Christ* achieves a certain importance in the eternal battle for and against faith, regardless of the intentions of the author, because it is a litmus paper which will reveal how much public opinion will allow — and will be used as such by those who seek to destroy faith in God.

We surely need to look again at the legitimacy of "fiction". It is only a few weeks since the fictionalised account of episodes in the Falklands War caused deep distress to the relatives of those whose lives were distorted. I suspect that there is a strong tide of public opinion which is dismayed at the way fact and fiction can be mingled and which recognised that an injustice had been perpetrated, however sincerely and artistically the film had been made.

How much more so is this the case when the object of such fictionalisation is Jesus himself.

I would like, therefore, through your columns, to thank Cardinal Hume (report, August 26) for his simple stand and statement. As a nation we need clear spiritual guidance for we are in danger of losing our sense of perception in such matters, and with it our sense of sin and danger. Yours faithfully, J. S. LESTER, Secretary, Moral Re-Armament, 12 Palace Street, SW1, August 27.

## Interest rates

From the Chief Executive of Barclaycard

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr Ingman (August 31) is wrong in his belief that credit cards are the main driving force behind the credit boom.

Bank credit cards actually account for only around 2.5 per cent of personal credit and Barclaycard for less than 1 per cent. Far from roaring out of control, borrowing on cards is in fact increasing only slowly and now represents a smaller proportion of personal credit than a year ago. People are certainly using their cards more, but as a means of payment, not as a method of borrowing.

In the 12 months to June, Barclaycard turnover rose by over 30 per cent, but lending on which interest is paid increased by only 7 per cent, merely keeping pace with inflation and the growth in the total number of cardholders. Around 45 per cent of cardholders now pay off their Barclaycard bill in full each month and therefore pay no interest. Yours faithfully, PETER ELLWOOD, Chief Executive, Barclaycard, Barclaycard Centre, Northampton, August 31.

## Don't call us . . .

From Mr Allan Hoite

Sir, Mr Uppichard (August 15) is correct in assuming that the promise of a return call is challenging the proverbial "cheque in the post" for the first prize in "truth economics". However, may I suggest another strong contender, namely: "We are terribly sorry, but we have a computer failure." Yours faithfully, ALLAN HOITE, 65 Vicarage Lane, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire, August 15.

## Period flavour

From Miss Yvonne E. Collins

Sir, Whatever the gifts taken by Mr Davison (August 27) to the voluntary exile of 1958, the essence of England in 1988 will best be shown by paying for them with a credit card. Yours faithfully, YVONNE E. COLLINS, 3 Leafit Drive, Derriford, Plymouth, Devon.

## From Lieutenant S. O.

Sir, The perfect gift would be a credit card. In fact he could have mine, as I can no longer afford to use it! Yours faithfully, SIMON MARTIN-REDMAN, Bekkestua, Daventry Lane, Anchorage Park, Portsmouth, Hampshire.

From Mr F. P. Thornton Sir, May I respectfully suggest that Mr and Mrs Davison take some litter to the Seychelles. Yours faithfully, F. P. THORNTON, Failand, 7 The Ridge, Walton-on-the-Naze, Essex, August 28.



COURT  
AND  
SOCIALSOCIAL  
NEWS

The Prince of Wales will open the new fishing port of Killybegs on October 1. The Princess of Wales will visit the control tower at Gatwick Airport on September 22. The Princess of Wales as Patron of the Welsh Well Appeal for the Red Cross will visit the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, will attend the Jean-Michel Jarre concert, *Destination Docklands*, at the Royal Victoria Docks on September 24.

## Ardingly College

Michaelmas Term at Ardingly College begins on Sunday, September 4. Sarah F. Canning (Woodard) is Senior Prefect. The new Upper Sixth House, Woodard, opens this term and the official ceremony will take place in the second half of the term. The chapel choir will sing for the week-end services in Westminster Abbey on October 8 and 9 and, with the orchestra, will undertake engagements with the Federal Republic of Germany from October 21-28. The School Play will run from November 16-19. The Sixth Form selection ceremony will take place in September 1989 will take place from November 24-26. There will be an Advent carol service by candlelight on November 29 and the Christmas carol service will take place on December 6 and 7. Term ends on Friday, December 9.

## Cranleigh School

Michaelmas Term at Cranleigh School begins tomorrow, Mr. J. Leigh has become Second Master on the retirement of Mr. K.S.G. Wills. Mr. G.R.P. Jones succeeds Mr. Leigh. Housemaster of 2 and 3 South. Mr. R.D. Knight becomes Housemaster of East, in succession to Mr. B.D. Gowen. A.J. Norris is senior prefect and J.C.M. Stables deputy senior prefect. Examinations are at stated places (at ages 10, 13 and 16) and for all sixth form academic and music scholarships will be held on November 4 and 5, and for girls' entry to the sixth form on November 5. Further details may be obtained from the headmaster's secretary. Mr. John Biffen, MP, will be the guest of honour at the Cranleigh Dinner on October 8. The Helen Wareham Competition fifteenth anniversary concert is on October 1; the preparatory schools invitation sevens tournament on October 19; the school orchestral concert *A Celebration of English Music* on November 9; the school play *The Mikado* on November 22-25; and the Advent carol service on December 4. Long leave is from October 22-30 and term ends on Friday, December 9.

## Moreton Hall, Shropshire

Autumn Term begins today with 346 on roll, 104 of whom are in the sixth form. Clare Hellowell is head prefect and Emma Rochford second prefect. Jane Maddocks is captain of lacrosse. To mark the school's seventy-fifth anniversary celebrations will be held at the school on October 7 for heads of schools and in London on October 11 for the preparatory schools. There will be a special day of celebration and thanksgiving at the school on October 22 for Old Moretonians and the school. Half-term will be from the evening of October 22 to October 31. There will be a carol service at Oswestry Parish Church on December 9 and term will end on December 10.

## Wycliffe College

Autumn Term begins today with Mr. Michael Thompson taking up his post as Headmaster of the Junior School. Progress towards full co-education has been maintained with girls throughout the junior school and the first girls at 13+ admitted to the senior school. The Rev. Gregory Cameron will be licensed as chaplain in the chapel tomorrow. Mrs. Sarah Roberts becomes senior mistress and Mrs. Patsy Bacon takes over as Housemistress of Ivy Grove. Adrian Counts has been appointed head of school and Helen Thew deputy head of school. A service of thanksgiving for the life of Hubert Batchelor, President of Wycliffe College 1974-1988, will be held in the chapel at noon on Saturday, October 8.

## Judge retires

Judge Clay has retired from the bench of the South Eastern Circuit. He was appointed a recorder in 1975 and a circuit judge in 1977.

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EXPORT AND PACKING FACILITIES ARRANGED.

Clifford Longley

Governing in the shadow  
of the Good Samaritan

The Thatcher Government has left itself wide open to the criticism that it has no theory of society; and one of the Prime Minister's most notorious utterances, that there was "no such thing as society", suggests she thinks the lack of such a theory to be a virtue rather than a vice.

Whatever she really meant by that remark, modern Conservatism is manifestly more interested in economics than in social philosophy, which goes a long way to explain the cross purposes, occasionally erupting in periods of friction, which exist between it and the Christian churches.

Their priorities are the other way round. They, like the Labour Party, have tended to start from the question "What sort of society do we want?", treating economics as a means by which those ends may be pursued. Conservative politics under Mrs Thatcher has started from the question "What sort of economy do we want?" leaving it to society to shape itself accordingly.

Critics dismiss this as an amoral approach, and have failed to take seriously the radical Conservative reply that the free market is itself a primary ethical principle.

It seems there is not much room, therefore, for philosophical or theological dialogue with the Government on the part of those who do not share this ethical premise, and who may well regard the free market, if it is a moral force at all, as a malign influence.

But there is another route by which the Government could be brought to engage in moral debate with its critics, which begs no questions about "society", which has good Christian credentials, and which could ring bells in Conservative think-tanks and elsewhere once the implications are understood. There are signs that some Conservative theorists have begun to hear them ringing already.

The Government has shown itself eclectic enough to take good ideas wherever it finds them, which may be fortunate in this case as the source could hardly sound more unfamiliar to most Conservative ears: Roman Catholic social teaching.

## Birthdays

TODAY: Mr Geoff Arnold, cricketer, 44; Dr Clare Burstall, educationist, 57; Miss Pauline Collins, actress, 48; Lord Craigton, 84; Lord Ebbisham, 76; Air Marshal Sir Gerald Gibbs, 92; Admiral Sir David Hallifax, 61; the Rev A.H.H. Bartolte, Chaplain to the Queen, 63; Professor Alison Lurie, writer, 62; Miss Susan Milan, flautist, 41; the Right Rev V.S. Nicholls, former Bishop of Sodor and Man, 71; Sir Ronald Prain, metallurgist, 81; Sir Mark Russell, diplomat, 81; M. Gaston Thore, former Prime Minister of Luxembourg, 60; Miss Raquel Welch, actress, 48.

## Tomorrow's royal engagements

The Princess of Wales will attend a gala concert to mark the opening of the Royal Marsden Hospital's International Conference on Cancer Nursing at the Festival Hall at 7.25. Prince Edward will attend a gala concert at the Georgian Theatre Royal, Richmond, Yorkshire, at 7.25, in its centenary year.

## Service dinner

The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment Brigadier W.G.R. Turner, Colonel of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire), presided at the annual officers' dinner held last night at Wadham College, Oxford. Captain J.D.L. Backus, RN, Captain of HMS Dryad, and Colonel J.M. Hewitt, Divisional Colonel of the Prince of Wales's Division, were the guests.

## Latest wills

Mr Leopold Muller, of Bayswater, London, left estate valued at £19,082,799 net. He left £1,275,500 and chattels to personal legacies, £55,000 each to the General Israel Orphan Home for Girls, Jerusalem, and the NSPCC, and the residue to his trustees for charities of their choice.

## Judge retires

Judge Clay has retired from the bench of the South Eastern Circuit. He was appointed a recorder in 1975 and a circuit judge in 1977.

The two principles on which it builds, claiming to find them at least implicitly in the Scriptures and in Natural Law, are *subsidiarity* and *solidarity*.

They have been variously defined: almost every Pope this century has had a go. The first can be sufficiently expressed as the principle that society in general is there to serve the good of individual persons, particularly when grouped in the basic natural community, the family. So society should seek to support and promote activity at the personal and familial level, not supplant or suppress it.

One facet of the principle of subsidiarity is that decisions affecting individuals and families should themselves be made by them themselves, not by others on behalf of "society"; and the implication for social organization is that a small and local administrative structure is better than a large central one.

So decisions should be made as far down the chain of administration as possible, as close to the personal level as possible. And "small is beautiful" is, in fact, a slogan which owes its origins to the principle of subsidiarity in Catholic social teaching.

Solidarity was not a word invented by Polish trades unionists, for they too know Catholic social teaching. It is the political expression of the parable of the Good Samaritan, which simultaneously answered the questions "Who is my neighbour?" and "What is my duty to him?" It gave an enlarging answer to both questions: one's neighbour is potentially every other member of the human race, transcending race, class and nationality; one's duty is unlimited.

It is this solidarity which constitutes the moral basis for society, being a collection of persons who acknowledge their mutual responsibilities. In that sense society cannot and does not exist independently of the individuals who make it up, or of the responsibilities they accept for each other.

The focus is on "persons in community"; but the community exists for persons, not the other way round.

Solidarity and subsidiarity are thus closely related concepts. Where they may answer the present need for a new sort of language for discussing political philosophy is that neither of them magnify the state.

Solidarity and subsidiarity apply even where there is no state at all, and apply in spheres - such as non-state voluntary or religious organizations - which are not the business of the state. They apply internationally. They also apply particularly to families and things which touch family life. They emphasize what people can do for themselves and each other, rather than what should be done for them by "society".

And towards economic policy they are neutral: in some respects they support the theory of the free market, in some respects not. But without the choices that the market makes available, it appears that neither solidarity nor subsidiarity have the scope they need.

"Rolling back Government" and "handing power back to the people" - two ideas which have dominated the political rhetoric of Mrs Thatcher's Government, are not so dissimilar to the principle of subsidiarity. But on its own, without solidarity, subsidiarity can deteriorate into selfish individualism, materialism, and "devil take the hindmost".

The Government has not been so good at enhancing solidarity (and in practice not always a consistent friend of subsidiarity either) and has gone out of its way to weaken one of most powerful instances of the solidarity principle at work, through its assault on trades unionism.

The Welfare State, equally, has a strong element of solidarity in its title deeds, though it has not been too careful of subsidiarity. Recognition of the profound coupling between these two moral principles would tell the Government that both those institutions need more of the subsidiarity principle, not less of the solidarity principle, to make them more human, more healthy - and more Christian. And the same may apply to the Government itself.



Steve Bradley, of Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire with his collection of replica musical instruments made of lead crystal, which took him nine months to create in his garage at home. They are to be sold by Thomas Goode, glass and china dealers, of Mayfair.

## Forthcoming marriages

Mr P. Bennett and Miss J. Wakenell

The engagement is announced between Peter Bennett, LLB Hons, eldest son of Mr and Mrs G. Bennett, of Kirk Marston, Spenswood, and Joanne, only daughter of Mr and Mrs W. Wakenell, of Essex.

Mr C.R.L. Broad and Miss J. East

The engagement is announced between Clive, elder son of Mr and Mrs A.L. Broad, of Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire, and Tracy, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Easton, of Melbourne, Australia.

Mr A.S. Cant and Miss H.A. Robbins

The engagement is announced between Alasdair Scott, elder son of Dr and Mrs J. Stanley Cant, of Newlands, Glasgow, and Helen Anne, daughter of Mrs Eileen Robbins and the late Peter G.D. Robbins, of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.

Mr N.R.M. Chappell and Miss L.M. Belcombe

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs Norman Chappell, of Tilford, Surrey, and Lynne, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Belcombe, of Elmstead, Surrey.

Mr S.N. Charrington and Miss C.S.J. Mazur

The engagement is announced between Somerset, son of the late Mr C.N. Charrington and of Mrs L.Z. Rowcliffe, of Bures Manor, Reigate, Surrey, and Carolyn, daughter of Mr S. Mazur and the late Mrs P.S. Mazur, of Callichally, Glenforsa, Island of Mull.

M.J.L. Fages and Miss H.C. Herrenscheidt

The engagement is announced between Jean-Louis, elder son of M and Mme Louis Fages, of Paris, France, and Hélène Carol, daughter of the late M. Jean Roger Herrenscheidt and of Mme Carol Herrenscheidt, of Bath, Avon.

Dr S.R. Forsyth and Miss P.J. Bacon

The engagement is announced between Steven, son of Squadron Leader and Mrs L.R. Forsyth, of Theford, Norfolk, and Philippa, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs C.J. Bacon, of Dean Close School, Cheltenham and Middle Treasney, Glosomont.

Mr D.J. McCornack and Miss W.J. Gardner

The engagement is announced between Dominic, son of Mr J. and Dr M. McCornack, of Bushey, Hertfordshire, and Wendy, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs E. Gardner, of Bridgeport, Shropshire.

Mr G.H.D. Melville and Dr L.J.M. MacMillan

The engagement is announced between Garrey Herdman Downie, only son of the late Mr Murray Melville and of Mrs Jan Melville, of Pollokshields, Glasgow, and Linda Jean Martin, only daughter of Mr and Mrs James MacMillan, of Annesland, Glasgow.

Dr B.E. Mobbs and Miss A.J. Boyles

The engagement is announced between Bryan, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael Mobbs, of Winchester, Hampshire, and Amanda, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin Boyles, of Mitcham, Surrey.

Mr B.K. Roche and Miss J.M. Whitehead

The engagement is announced between Brendan, youngest son of Dr and Mrs K.P. Roche, of Bristol, and Joanna, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs M.J.C. Whitehead, of Guildford, Surrey.

Mr M.J. Stoller and Miss D.E. Chandler

The engagement is announced between Martin, only son of Mr and Mrs Norman Stoller, of Whitefield, Manchester, and Dani, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Chandler, of Brookmans Park, Hertfordshire.

Mr N.M. Tett and Miss C.P. Timms

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, eldest son of the late Mr M.R. Tett and of Mrs Tett, of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, and Clara, daughter of Professor and Mrs N. Timms, of Honley, Warwickshire.

Mr W.G.C. Ward and Miss S.C.I. Campbell

The engagement is announced between William, son of Mr and Mrs W.G.C. Ward, of Bray Willows, Bray, Berkshire, and Shuna, eldest daughter of Captain and Mrs C.J.B. Campbell, of Hazlehurst Lodge, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire.

Mr W.J. Morris and Dr H.C.M. Lydon

The marriage took place on Friday, August 26, at Christ the King Church, Cardiff, between Mr John Morris and Dr Mary Lydon.

## Marriage

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## Anniversaries

1935-48, Seimoo Usui, 1948: e.e. cummings, poet and painter, North Conway, New Hampshire, 1962: Louis MacNeice, poet, London, 1963: Ho Chi Minh, president of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam 1945-69, Hanoi, 1969.

In England in 1752 the Gregorian calendar replaced the Julian whereby this day became September 14. Britain recognized the independence of the USA by the Treaty of Versailles, 1783. The pleasure steamer the Princess Alice collided with the Bywell Castle in the Thames near Woolwich and more than 700 lives were lost. 1878, Britain and France declared war on Germany, 1939. The US Viking II touched down on Mars, 1976.

DEATHS: Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, favourite of Queen Elizabeth I, Cornbury, Oxfordshire, 1588; James Wyatt, architect, Marlborough, Wiltshire, 1813; Edward Grieg, Bergen, Norway, 1907; Albert Schweitzer, philosopher, physician, musician and missionary, Nobel peace laureate 1952, Lambaré, Gabon, 1965.

## OBITUARY

## PROFESSOR LUIS ALVAREZ

Fertile and inventive physicist

Professor Luis Alvarez, winner of the 1988 Nobel Prize for Physics, and one of the most dynamic scientific brains of this century, died in Berkeley, California, where he had taught for most of his life, on September 1. He was 77.

The range of Alvarez's achievements was extraordinary, and the force of his mind, when it was in thrall to a new conception, earned him a reputation as a "prize wild-ideas man" among his contemporaries.

There was scarcely any branch of scientific knowledge which did not interest him. Archaeology, astronomy and palaeontology were as much meat and drink to him as was physics.

He had worked on the Los Alamos project which developed the first atomic bomb; he developed a type of radar which became the forerunner of today's ground control radars; he advanced controversial theories about the extinction of the dinosaurs; he discovered new subatomic particles; and he used cosmic rays to banish for ever the secretly cherished notion that there might be hidden chambers in the Chephren pyramid in Egypt.

Luis Walter Alvarez was born in San Francisco, the son of an assistant in medicine at the University of California. His father subsequently moved to work at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, and Alvarez went to high school there, and then to Chicago University.

His precocity in many spheres was already recognized. When his father sent him a fifty dollar cheque one Christmas he went to the nearest flying school and told an astonished instructor: "I want to solo". He did after only three and a quarter hours of instruction.

After graduating he obtained a teaching service in the University of California, and in the years before the war made a number of important discoveries about elementary particles on the university's cyclotron.

In 1940 he was one of several young physicists recruited to help on wartime scientific problems. The most important of these was to be the development of nuclear bombs, but in the meantime Alvarez created a special type of radar



with a very narrow beam, which enabled a ground operator to talk an aircraft blinded by bad weather, down onto a runway. Thus the concept of Ground Controlled Approach (GCA) was born.

After developing GCA Alvarez tested it himself in 25 hours of blind flying.

He was a group leader on the Los Alamos project, and witnessed the first nuclear explosion at Alamogordo, New Mexico, from an army plane. He also flew on the first nuclear bombing mission in a B-29 which followed half a mile behind Colonel Paul Tibbets's Enola Gay, the aircraft which dropped the bomb on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. His function on both flights was to observe the intensity of the blast waves.

After the war Alvarez returned to the University of California at Berkeley where he began the work which eventually secured him the Nobel Prize. This involved the development of bubble chambers to discover new sorts of elementary particles, and was described at the time as a decisive step forward in nuclear physics.

But Alvarez's restless mind was not one to rest on its laurels. While in Stockholm to receive his Nobel Prize he wanted to talk to the press not about the work which had earned him it, but about his efforts to learn whether or not there actually was a secret chamber in the Chephren pyramid at Giza. The idea that a hidden chamber might house treasures of a size to make Tutankhamen look like a pauper had been a popular dream of scientific and lay minds for centuries.

How to begin locating it in the middle of millions of cubic

feet of masonry was another matter. No man-made source of radiation was powerful enough so Alvarez harnessed the power of cosmic rays, whose particles called muons were able to penetrate the mass of the pyramid and finally put an end to speculation.

The demise of the dinosaurs was another mystery to which Alvarez turned his attention, in harness with his geologist son, who was working in Gubbio, Italy in the 1970s. By examining a layer of sediment little more than an inch thick which dated from the era of the boundary between the Cretaceous and Tertiary periods 65 million years ago, Alvarez and his son developed the theory that at that time a large asteroid or other body from outer space struck the earth at that time, causing the total extinction of the dinosaur population.

Alvarez, a combative man, ridiculed the arguments of palaeontologists that the extinction was a gradual process, and that some dinosaurs had lived on well into the age of mammals. Of palaeontologists he said recently: "They're not very good scientists. They're more like stamp collectors".

Alvarez was very much in the tradition of the inventor-scientist, and gadgets fascinated him. His interests outside science were as varied as those within it. He followed sports closely and was a keen golfer himself. He even invented an electronic indoor golf trainer, which operated on photoelectric cells and informed the swinger just how the head of his club was moving. President Eisenhower was the recipient of one, a gift from the inventor.

He was also involved in the controversy over the production of the hydrogen bomb in 1953, supporting the proposal to develop the weapon against Robert Oppenheimer, whose opposition to the project made him suspect as a security risk for the next 10 years. But in his autobiography, published last year, Alvarez stated that Oppenheimer's opposition was "in no way related to his loyalty to his country, of which I had no doubt".

Alvarez leaves his widow, Janet, and four children. A previous marriage, to Geraldine Smithwick of Chicago, ended in divorce.

## MR PATRICK FORBES

Mr Patrick Forbes, who died on August 26 at the age of 62, was a writer and leading figure in the champagne business for three decades.

He was educated at Eton and Groton in the United States, and saw service in Holland and Germany with the Grenadier Guards, which he joined in 1943.

While still in the Army, Forbes was commissioned to write two books, *Sixth Guards Tank Brigade*, with which he had served, and with Nigel Nicolson as co-author, *The Grenadier Guards 1939-45*.

After the war he became an editor at Victor Gollancz Ltd. Forbes joined Moët & Chandon in 1957. His association with the firm was initially on an informal basis, assisting with visitors to its Epernay headquarters.

He lived in the Champagne district for the next seven years, becoming an authority on the subject and writing *Champagne: the Wine, the Land and the People*, which

was published in 1967.

When, in 1963, the champagne company acquired the London firm which had acted as British agents for over a century Forbes, although not an obvious candidate, was appointed managing director of the new company, Moët & Chandon (London) Ltd.

His appointment proved to be an inspired choice, however, and under his leadership, sales increased threefold. Forbes was also closely involved in the diversification of Moët's other interests in the United Kingdom as vice-chairman of its subsidiaries, Parfums Christian Dior and Laboratoires RoC.

Away from the business world, Forbes retained an interest in scholarly pursuits: his holidays were frequently spent retracing the footsteps of Lord Byron and Madame de Staël.

He retired from the company last year with the intention of a return to writing. He was unmarried.

## MR G. T. EAGLETON

Mr Guy Tryon Eagleton, who died on August 26, aged 94, was the last surviving cricketer to have been at the crease with Dr W. G. Grace in the doctor's last match.

They were both members of the Egham Cricket Club, where the doctor coached him with his batting.

The match was played on Saturday, July 25, 1914, against Grove Park. The scorecard reads 0, Dr W. G. Grace not out 69, 0, G. T. Eagleton caught Beavis, bowled Leverton 13, final score Egham 155, Grove Park 99.

Before the year's end Eagleton was at the firm with the Honourable Killery Company and was the father of the regiment at the time of his death.

Having qualified as a solicitor he joined the Haberdashers' Company as assistant clerk under his father in 1919, taking over as clerk in 1931, and serving until retirement in 1952.

Like his father, he was also clerk of the Fruiterers' Company and was the senior liveryman of both companies.

## Piping

## MacLeod wins the Gold Clasp

The second day of the bi-centenary of the Northern Meeting in Inverness was devoted mainly to the Piobaireachd competition for the Gold Clasp, and the March Strathspey and Reel for former winners of the gold bagpipes.

The Gold Clasp was first presented in 1896 by the Northern Meeting, as a prize for those who had won the Highland Society of London's Gold Medal. Until then there was no competition open to gold medalists, who could not win it more than once. The clasp can be won any number of times; the record is held by Donald Macpherson, who won it for the first time in 1950 and for the ninth in 1975.

For the bi-centenary a medal has been struck for the winner of the Clasp. Designed and made by William Kirk, of Edinburgh, it is partly based on the Centenary Medal, which was won by John MacColl, then Piper to MacDonald of Dunach, in 1911.

The 1988 clasp competition was an unusual one. Every piper eligible to compete was speci-

ally invited to enter, and 18 actually played. There was a set list of 20 of the great classic tunes, of which each competitor had to submit six. The result was a day of superb piping of which no tune was repeated. As is often the case with a once-in-a-lifetime occasion the strain upon the pipers was considerable.

The Bicentenary Medal was won by Roderick MacLeod, whose performance of Angus MacKay's setting of "Mrs MacCallum's Quoh" was outstanding. Another worthy prize-winner was John MacDougall, who took second prize with the "Lament for Don Garbh MacLeod of Raasay". Michael Cusack came third with the "Lament for Donald Ban MacCrimmon". Padraig Mor MacCrimmon's "Lament for the Children" won fourth prize for Jack Lee from Canada.

The first prize in the March Strathspey and Reel was won by Pipe Major Gavin Stoddart, Queen's Own Highlanders. A Bicentenary Silver Medal was also struck for the best piper in the Junior Piobaireachd and

Junior March Strathspey and Reel. This was won by Gavin Walker, of Dunblane, who came second in the Junior Piobaireachd and first in the March Strathspey and Reel. A second prize was awarded to Audrey MacKenzie.

RESULTS: Clasp: Roderick MacLeod, John MacDougall, Michael Cusack, Jack Lee.

March Strathspey and Reel: PM Gavin Stoddart, Cpl Alastair Gillies, QOH, William MacCallum, L/Sgt Brian Donaldson.

Strathspey and Reel (A): Robert Wallace, Gordon Walker, Donald MacBride, William MacCallum.







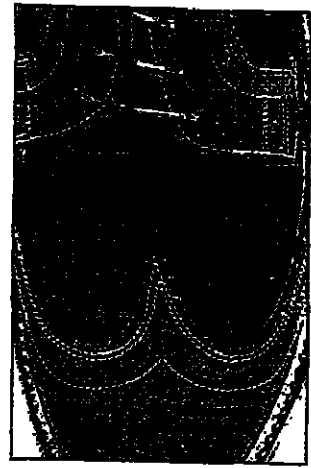




## SHOPPING

## Dawn of a brand new past

Never mind the drawing board, it's back to the attic. Deyan Sudjic charts a yearning for what's been — even in the man who said what's Next



Brogue male: straight-laced

At the very dawn of the 1980s, in design's paleolithic age, designers wore baseball boots, Hawaiian shirts, and aspired to drive fluorescent Cadillacs. Then they graduated to Commes des Garçons and Braun calculators. Now they wear brogues, Aertex and linen, dream of owning a Bristol, and talk about how dreadful the design-with-everything phenomenon is.

The change, if change it is, for the preoccupation of design in this sense is still with form more than content, represents the triumph of Englishness as a marketing concept. And nowhere is its essence more clearly distilled than in Davies, the Covent Garden emporium that promises (in the manner of one of those Japanese T-shirts that use meaningless sentences made up from spare parts English as decorative patterns) "Furniture and Clothing for a Temperate Isle."

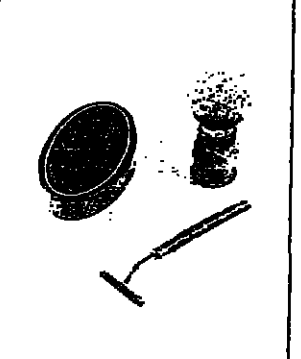
With its rack of cricket bats next to the door, and the globe lights that look like something out of a gentleman's outfitter from the age of Brylcreem, Davies lays its Englishness on with a trowel. It succeeds in making the advertising agency next door — which boasts flickering television sets buried face up in the floor of its Egyptoid foyer — look hopelessly out of date. Suddenly, trying too hard is as old-fashioned as flared trousers,



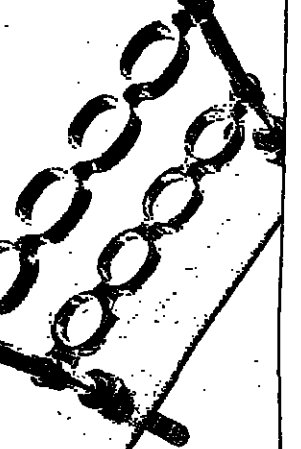
Faucet: turn another nickel on



Armchair wagon: for elbow room



Brush strokes: shaving gear



Brush rack: bygone bathroom

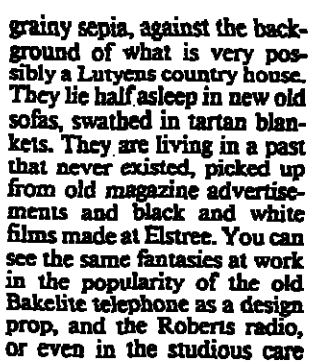
and a whole generation of designers is desperately trying to design furniture that looks as if it was discovered lying around in the attic of an old aunt, rather than the product of a drawing board. The shop is the latest brainchild of David Davies, the designer who made his name bringing maple strip floors and espresso bars to the nation's high streets for Next. And if Davies is to be believed, we are in for an epidemic of Englishness. "Everyone has become weary of the notion of 'designer'. Every ad that has a couple sitting in it, in an absurdly minimal flat that has one Eileen Gray chair — it's impossible to live like that. The alternative has been to choose a style with a classical, more traditional feel."

Certainly it won't do his business any harm if he can convince the nation's retailers to hire him to strip out the Bauhaus look he, and others like him, have only just finished installing.

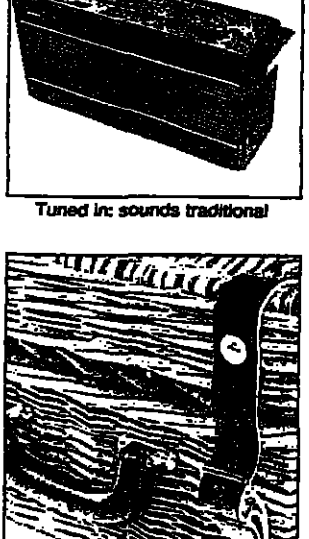
Step inside his store, and you are assaulted by a barrage of fumed oak and wrought iron. There are glass-fronted cabinets, full of Jermyn Street grooming preparations. A rowing boat hangs from the ceiling. In another corner there is a pile of battered leather Edwardian gent's luggage, still sporting fragments of GWR luggage labels.

The furniture is arranged in sets that look like the sitting room of the kind of country hotel that Miss Marple would once have frequented. Swagged drapes of floral chintz cascade over the walls, there is a marble fireplace and a stack of 1950s magazines.

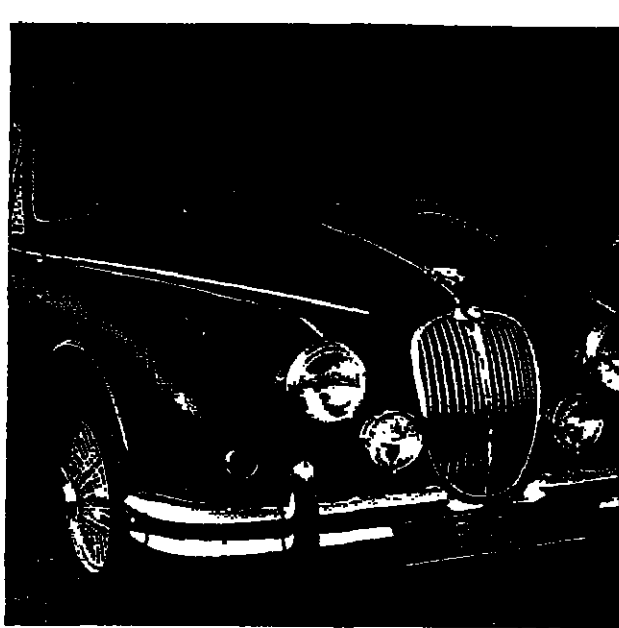
To sell the whole look, there is a Davies brochure — the retailing equivalent of a pop video. Wistful young men in suits are photographed in



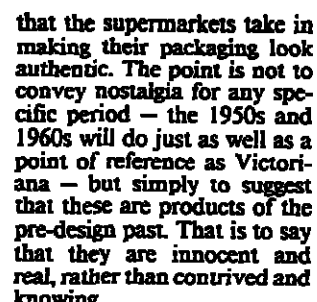
Tuned in: sounds traditional



Wicker's world: picnic basket



Glory wheels: stalk a vintage Jaguar, then grille to order

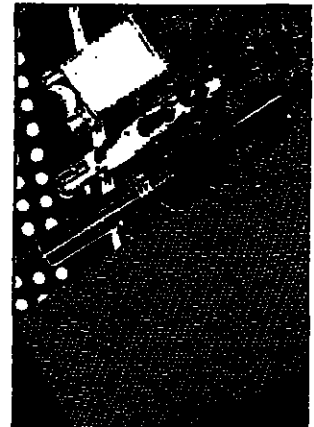


The curious thing about all this is that at exactly the same

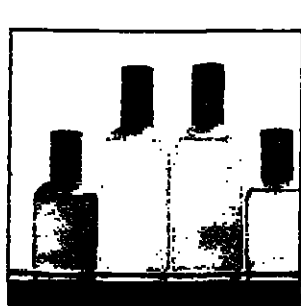
time that Davies was putting the finishing touches to the shop, he was still working on revamping British Airways. While searching for blacksmiths to make his hand-forged chairs, he was also bringing the airborne travelling salesman of Club Class into the age of matt black calculators and preying mantis table lamps.

Davies has already written off his past as a modernist. His office may still be full of black

leather and chrome furniture, but it is just there to reassure the clients, he will have you believe. The look for the future is back to the classics. Already Next is ahead of the game; it sells useless country house geegaws like hipflasks, and braces. And men's shops are full of those pointless straps that hold your shirtsleeves up. You can see the yearning for Englishness in the success of Coach and Spence, a company that was started by Frank Sawkins 10 years ago, but which artfully contrives to suggest that it has been purveying gentleman's soaps and outsize Edwardian taps for at least a century.



Retro: accessories to the time



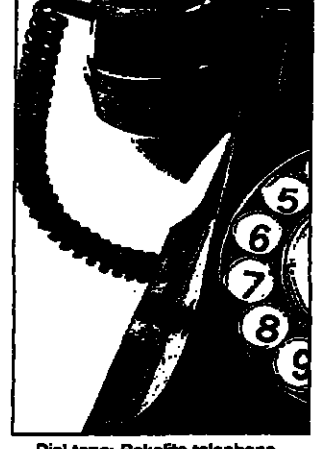
Bottled up: essence of the past

Sawkins has exported his wares to Tokyo, and New York. You can do anything with well-designed packaging and a Jermyn Street address.

Davies isn't on his own. Peter Leonard, the host of the *Room for a Change* television series and the proprietor of Soho Design, has been peddling cartoon cut-out pointed backed chairs for a year or two already, somewhat presumptuously calling them Gothic, and maintaining with a straight face that they are the fulfilment of the Arts and Crafts tradition which was cut off in its prime after the Great War.

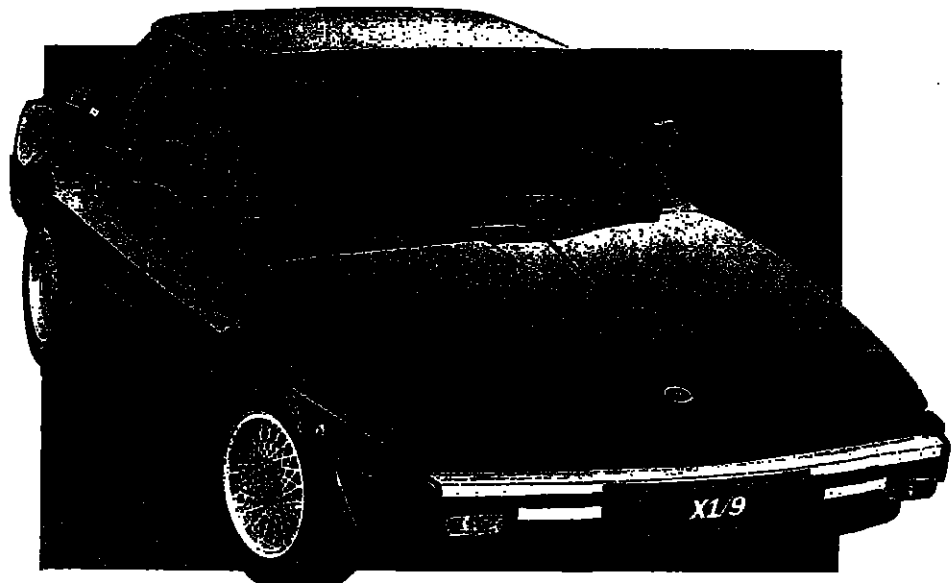
Like Davies, Leonard has done his share of neo-Courran clean and contemporary chain store interiors. The stylistic U-turn that both of them have made shows how the design world operates: once they have flogged the design look to death, they are now busy

telling the world that they are not into design at all, but instead are in the business of producing timeless classics full of natural, temperate finishes and all that. "Englishness" is as self-consciously fabricated, as artificial a style as any other. It is in fact, Fogeyism, made safe for the BMW-driving classes.

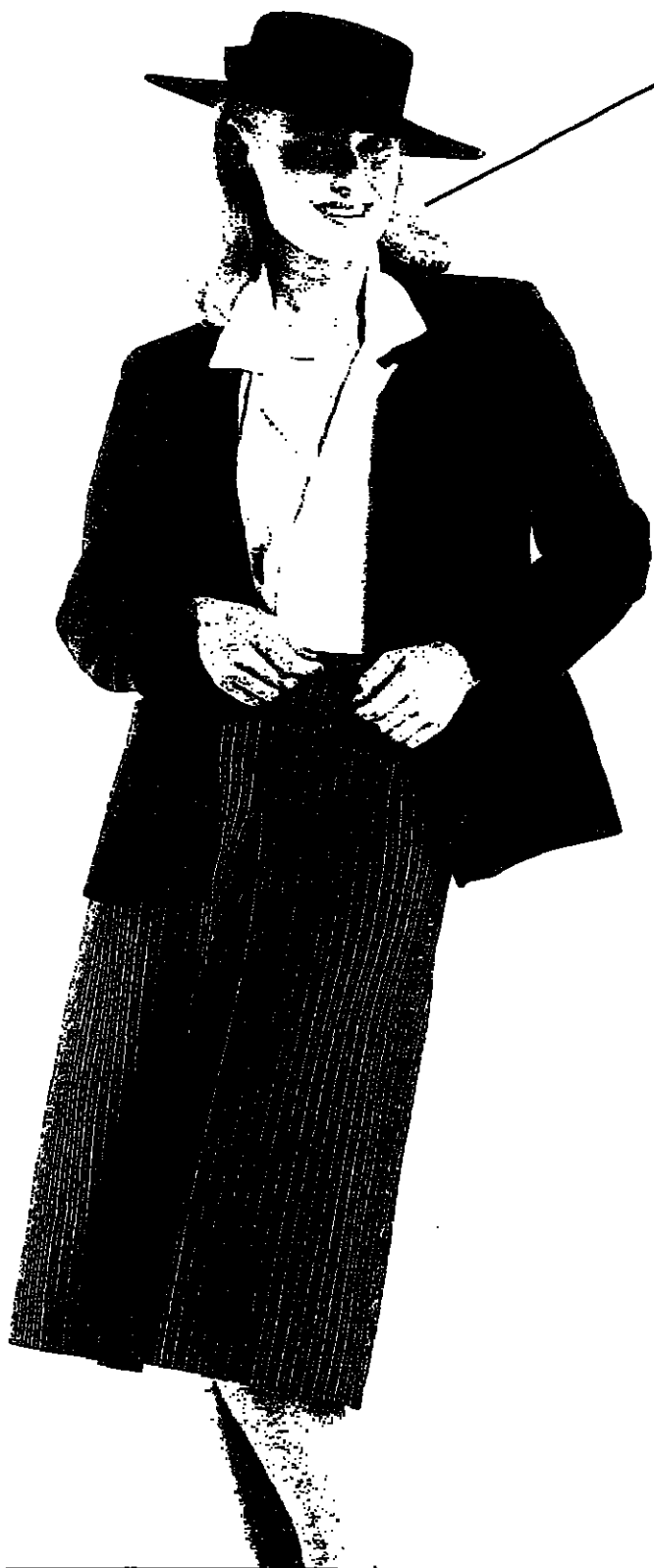


Dial tone: Bakelite telephone

Club tea, tortoiseshell pen, lighter, accessories all from Next, 358 Kings Road, SW3 and branches. Bedroom fittings and cushions from Ceph and Spence, 290 Jermyn Street, SW1. Flat, armchairs, shaving kits, Roberts radio, brogues, picnic basket, leather music case and suitcase all from Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW3. Bakelite telephone by Vender, 53 North Street, S.W.4. Lloyd Loom chair from Davies, 10 Great Newport Street, W.C2. Laughton sofa from Soho, 126 Poland Street, W.1. Jaguar to order from Vintage Classic Car Company, Bridgnorth, Shropshire.



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Kenneth Fleet column page 21 . . . Why Sid is looking sick page 26 . . . Geoffrey Mulcahy on Woolworths page 31

Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

## Howden three sent for trial

Three underwriters of Alexander Howden, a Lloyd's broking company, were committed to the Central Criminal Court for trial from Guildhall Justices Rooms yesterday.

Mr Kenneth Grob, 65, the former chairman, aged 65, of Eton Square, Belgrave, central London, faces 75 charges including stealing \$1,135,910 from Alexander Howden.

The others accused of charges of theft and conspiracy were Mr Ian Postgate, aged 56, an ex-Lloyd's underwriter, of Clarendon Road, Notting Hill, west London; Mr Jack Carpenter, aged 66, the former deputy chairman of Alexander Howden, of Oakmans Lodge, Rickmans Lane, Billingshurst, west Sussex; and Mr Colin Hart, aged 53, a former Lloyd's underwriter of Ellenden Farm, Foxes Cross, Whitstable, Kent.

They were all committed for trial on bail with sureties each totalling £100,000 and conditions to surrender their passports and of residence.

## Pavilion shows £5.4m loss

A £6.12 million write-off following a trademark revaluation has left Pavilion International, the USM-quoted US cosmetics company, with a loss of £5.4 million for the year to February 29. Last year the company made a pre-tax profit of £537,000.

Pavilion failed to publish its preliminary statement in July, as originally planned, because it was unable to secure the necessary finance at the time.

Operating profits declined during the year by 47 per cent to £1.9 million, with turnover down 11.5 per cent to £25.83 million following the collapse in the dollar and a still continuing price war in the US cosmetics industry. The company said although margins were cut to retain volume, the US operation remained profitable.

Following these results, Mr Stanley Acker has resigned as deputy chairman and chief executive of the company. However, he remains chairman and president of the Pavilion Ltd subsidiary.

Dealings in Pavilion's shares, suspended on July 28 at 8.75p, are expected to resume on Monday.

## Second buyout

Maccoss Group, Britain's largest cash-and-carry car parts and accessories wholesaler, has been bought out by its management — for the second time in two years. Maccoss, bought from Burmah for £10.5 million in 1986, has now been valued at £20 million with the management lifting its holding from 20 to 72.5 per cent.

## Interim gain

Severfield-Reeve, the Yorkshire-based structural engineering group which came to the Unlisted Securities Market in July, increased pre-tax profits for the first half of this year to £535,000 from £400,000 last time on turnover up 21 per cent to £4.28 million. An interim dividend of 0.75p is announced.

## Cooper buy

Frederick Cooper has acquired the fixed assets and goodwill of Wallfab (Engineering) and Wallfab (Special Products) from the receivers for £160,000 in cash. It has also agreed to purchase the stock at valuation.

## STOCK WATCH

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● Market news on Stock-watch yesterday included: Lambert Horwarth (02254) fell 15p after Wednesday's fall in profits. RHM (01161) fell a further 10p, following Goodman Fielder Watfie's abandoned bid. Blue Circle (01118) lifted 9p on bid speculation. Irish Distillers (02380) climbed 4p on news of bid talks.

● Recent additions include: Ashley Industrial Trust RFD 03431

● Calls charged 5p for 8 seconds peak, 12 seconds off peak inc. VAT.

# Spicer told Clowes to repay investors

By Lawrence Lever

Spicer & Oppenheim, the accountant, had grave misgivings about the offshore funds run by Barlow Clowes 20 months before the fund management group collapsed, according to a confidential memorandum seen by *The Times*.

The accountancy firm was so concerned that it took the view that Barlow Clowes should withdraw Portfolio 68 — one of its two main offshore funds — and pay all the money back to the UK investors in the fund as soon as possible.

Portfolio 68 was run by Barlow Clowes International, the Gibraltar arm of the crashed fund management group. Investors in BCI are facing losses of up to £100 million.

The confidential memorandum was prepared by Mr Nic Lewis, then a partner in Spicer, following a meeting he had on September 3, 1986 with Mr Peter Clowes, head of Barlow Clowes, and other

directors of the company. Spicer was auditor to Barlow Clowes at the time.

In the memorandum Mr Lewis says that he is "most unhappy" with Portfolio 68 and considered that one aspect of its operation was not "proper".

The memorandum indicates that Mr Lewis and Mr Julian Pilkington, the Spicer partner in charge of the Barlow Clowes account, decided to write to Barlow Clowes and "advise them to stop marketing this portfolio to UK clients, and to repay the money in it from UK residents as soon as possible".

There are indications in the memorandum that Spicer's concern also extended to Portfolio 28, the other principal offshore fund run by Barlow Clowes.

Mr Lewis voices doubts over the tax aspects of Portfolio 68 which used a complicated stock lending scheme involving British government securities to generate returns to investors. BCI claimed

these returns could be regarded as capital gains rather than income and were therefore exempt from tax.

Mr Lewis also questions the way in which the operation of Portfolio 68 entailed the allocation of transactions to clients after they had taken place.

"I said that I was far from happy that the transactions had the tax effects intended".

"I subsequently spoke with JABP (Mr Pilkington) and said that I was most unhappy with the situation, partly because I was not sure the stock lending transactions did not give rise to taxable events and partly because I did not think the after event booking of transactions in the second stage was proper".

The date of the meeting on which Mr Lewis's memorandum is based is further evidence of a chain of concerns that were being voiced about Barlow Clowes around August and September 1986.

On August 28 Mr Pilkington received a call from

the Department of Trade and Industry disclosing that it had received suggestions that there was something untoward at Barlow Clowes.

The meeting involving Mr Lewis and Mr Clowes took place six days later.

Later that month Mr Richard Hooper, a partner in Spicer's Gibraltar office, raised questions about possible irregularities in the Geneva office.

After the September 3 meeting Spicer had at least one further meeting with Mr Clowes at which its concerns about Portfolio 68 were repeated.

Spicer subsequently wrote to Barlow Clowes relaying its concerns over the portfolio and telling the investment group that there was a "sound case" for repaying money in the fund to UK investors.

A Spicer spokesman refused to say whether the firm mentioned its concerns about Portfolio 68 to the Department of Trade and Industry. *Le Quenne inquiry, page 19*

## Reserves top \$50bn as Bank intervenes

By David Smith  
Economics Correspondent

Britain's gold and foreign currency reserves topped \$50 billion for the first time last month, helped by the second payment on BP shares by foreign institutions.

The reserves rose by an underlying \$827 million last month, the sixth consecutive monthly rise. The increase came partly as a result of Bank of England intervention against the dollar in August — when it joined in with the Bundesbank in trying to stem the dollar's rise.

But the announcement, came as the Bank was again forced to intervene in support of sterling, which continued its fall yesterday morning.

The Bank stepped in to support sterling when it dipped on Thursday afternoon and made further purchases yesterday morning. Dealers said that the pound had not shrugged off the nervousness which followed the publication of the July trade figures on August 25.

Money market interest rates

UK RESERVES		
Reserves (\$m)	Change (\$m)	
Jan	43,093	+38
Feb	42,927	+25
Mar	47,519	+2,225
Apr	47,857	+514
May	48,533	+814
Jun	48,519	+84
July	49,826	+910
Aug	50,639	+827

added about an eighth of a point, trading at a level consistent with a half-point rise in base rates from the present 12 per cent. The top discount rate at the weekly Treasury bill tender rose to 11.6519 per cent, up from 11.5516 per cent last week.

The pound has also been affected by a change of view on its prospects by the US investment house Goldman Sachs. In a telex to clients this week Mr David Morrison, the firm's chief international economist, said that if sterling dropped below DM3.14, it would soon fall to within the DM3.08-DM3.10 range.

"We have become more

negative of the pound," Mr Morrison said yesterday. "A much greater than expected deterioration in the UK trade position and the tightening of German monetary policy have undermined sterling."

The Bank's intervention came with the pound trading in the DM3.12-DM3.13 range and just below \$1.67. After the publication of the US employment data the pound stabilised at about \$1.67 but dropped below DM3.12.

The official reserves stood at \$50.64 billion (£30.12 billion) at the end of last month, up from \$49.83 billion (£29.11 billion) at the end of July. Of the actual rise of \$813 million, \$495 million was due to US and Canadian dollar receipts from the second instalment of BP shares.

● The US unemployment rate rose to 5.6 per cent last month from 5.4 per cent in July and now appears to have passed its low point. It was seen by dealers as reducing the pressure on the Federal Reserve Board to raise interest rates.

## IDG and Pernod confirm bid talks

By Graham Searjeant  
Financial Editor

The prospect of another expensive bid battle in the international drinks business drew closer as Pernod-Ricard, the French drinks group, confirmed that it is holding bid discussions with Irish Distillers Group "which may or may not lead to an offer".

Pernod has also bought IDG shares heavily, raising its stake from 2.8 per cent to 3 per cent.

The joint holding statement from Dublin came after talks lasting late on Thursday and from early yesterday morning. The confirmation of true bid talks comes in response to an angry statement from GC&C Brands, Grand Metropolitan's subsidiary, which raised the spectre of the French group gaining a blocking stake in Irish Distillers without making a full bid.

IDG shares swiftly gained a further 8p to 366p in London. This compares with the GC&C bid of 1400p, equivalent to 341p.

The move leaves the Grand Metropolitan camp at a tactical disadvantage, since it has already declared its £215 million cash bid final in the absence of a counter-offer.

While Pernod is free to add to its shareholding in the market, GrandMet therefore cannot raise its bid or buy shares in the market at the current price before Pernod announces a rival offer.

GC&C Brands has a holding of almost 7 per cent in IDG and its offer is scheduled to close on September 12.

Mr David McCrossan, of Allied Irish Investment Bank, advisers to GC&C, said the situation continued to be unsatisfactory for shareholders.

He said a straightforward bid battle would now be in everyone's interests.

In a battle, the decisions of two leading shareholders will be vital. FI-Fyffes, which assented to the earlier consortium bid but was released from its undertaking, owns 20 per cent of IDG. Irish Life, the state-controlled insurance company, owned 11 per cent, but is understood to have sold 1 per cent already, ultimately to Pernod-Ricard.

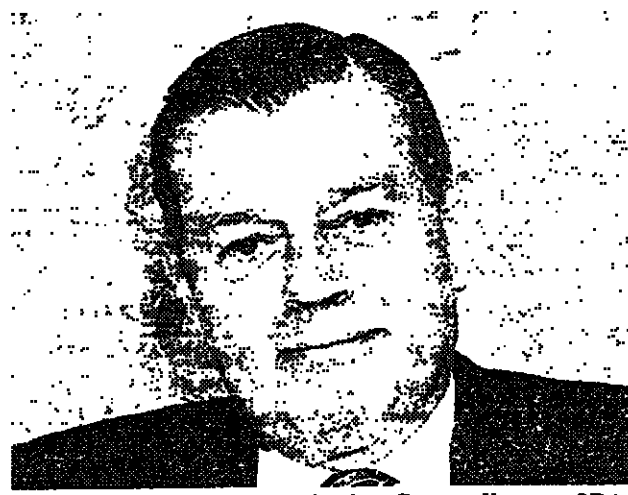
## Dunlop to retire from BA

By Carol Ferguson

Mr Gordon Dunlop, finance director of British Airways since 1982, is taking early retirement from his executive position at the end of this year. He will remain on the BA board as a non-executive director for a further three months, until the end of March 1989.

Recruited by BA's chairman Lord King to prepare the group for privatisation, Mr Dunlop, aged 60, was chiefly responsible for transforming the balance sheet from being laden with £1 billion of debt and negative net worth at the end of 1982, into the fiscally respectable version, with net cash resources of £767 million, prior to the takeover of British Caledonian last December.

Much of the credit for the improvement must be attributed to BA's use, with Mr Dunlop at the financial helm, of long-term leases to fund the purchase of aircraft, a method



Leaving the board: Gordon Dunlop, finance director of BA

of financing which effectively keeps the financing cost off the balance sheet.

Mr Ian Wild, airline analyst at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, said that Mr Dunlop had done a good job at BA, but said that he expected to see someone else take BA into the 1990s.

"How BA finances its future is

one of the big keys to its success," Mr Wild said. "A revolution is taking place in the business, both because of the need for new planes, and because of the possibility now opening up whereby BA may be able to take stakes in other airlines."

Kenneth Fleet, page 21

## P&D gives up private client business

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Phillips & Drew, the stockbroker, is giving away its private client business, the latest dramatic proof that City stockbroking firms are finding it hard to make money out of their personal customers.

Capel-Cure Myers, another leading stockbroker, is taking most of Phillips & Drew Investment Services' private client business as well as a team of about 20 executives. The transfer does not involve any cash payment apart from the costs involved in the move itself.

There will, however, be up to 40 redundancies among dealers, salesmen and back-office staff at P&D/IS from September 30.

CCM said yesterday that the move "represents a significant step in our stated objective of becoming the leading specialist in private client services in the UK."

Although the choice of moving to CCM remains with the individual client, the company expects to welcome be-

tween 1,000 and 2,000 clients from P&D, adding to its existing private client funds under management of about £1 billion. The new business, which will be transferred in October, will include both discretionary and advisory accounts.

Mr Fred Carr of CCM Capital Management said that his company had been chosen by P&D partly because they shared the same computer software which minimized the difficulties involved in the transfer. They also had a similar approach to fund management, he added.

A small part of P&D's private fund management business — including mainly overseas clients — is being transferred to the London office of its parent, Union Bank of Switzerland.

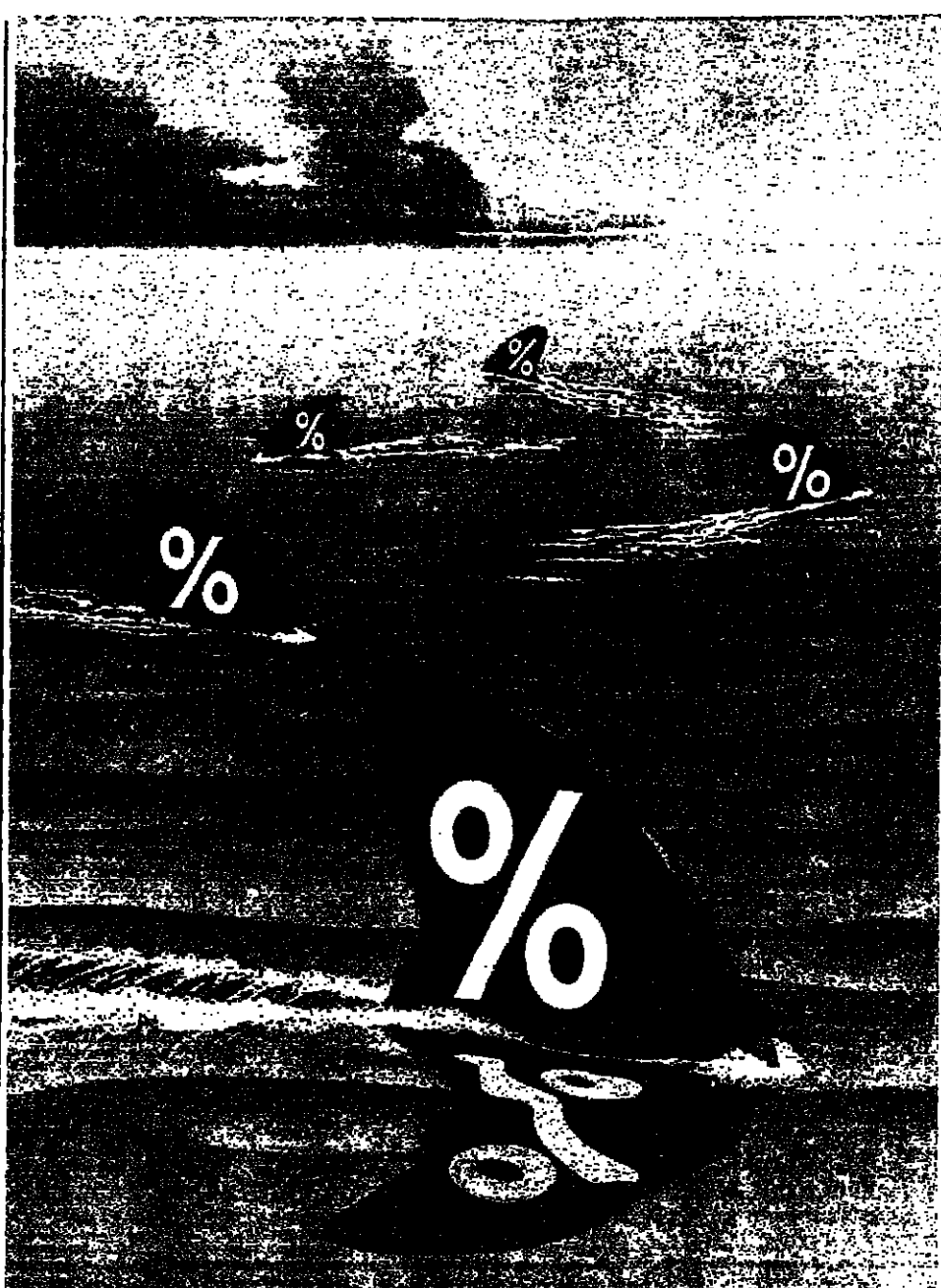
The decision to pull out of private client business was part of a more general review of P&D's operations currently being carried out by UBS. The Swiss bank said that retail stockbroking did not fit into the group strategy of concentrat-

ing on wholesale business in operations outside Switzerland.

Meanwhile, Hoare Govett, another leading stockbroker, is trying to find a buyer for its own private client operation which has funds of about £1 billion under management.

The move is understood to be rooted in Hoare Govett's problems with its parent, Security Pacific, the US banking group. But it also reflects the difficulty many City firms are experiencing in making their private client business profitable since the stock market crash. With the dramatic fall in stock market turnover, the fees from private client business have also fallen below the cost of maintaining the large back-offices which most firms had built up.

P&D is at least the second large stockbroking firm to get rid of its private client business. Shearson Lehman pulled out of servicing its private clients earlier this year when it wound down the business of L. Messel.



## Tougher net planned to catch the loan sharks

By Maria Scott

A tough Government health warning may be imposed on applications for second mortgages as part of a drive against loan sharks and unscrupulous lenders.

Mr Francis Maude, Corporate Affairs Minister, is considering the wording: "Your home is at risk if you do not make repayments on a secured loan."

Another change, already announced, will compel lenders to include fees, which can be as high as 20 per cent of the loan, in calculating the interest rate on loans.

Mr Maude said that he was also looking into the procedure for applying for a personal loan. At present, he said, too much documentation was required and this was confusing for consumers. The granting and policing of licences to

lenders is also under review to try to find ways to weed out unscrupulous operators, but this is still at an early stage.

Separately, the Lord Chancellor's Department has been investigating ways that courts could intervene in cases where debtors are brought before

### Danger in the debt ocean..... page 25

them because of non-payment, if it appears that the borrower has been charged an extortionate rate of interest.

In his examination of personal debt problems, Mr Maude has ruled out controls on the amount which people can borrow or ceilings on interest rates.

"This has been tried in other countries and it has not worked. Consumers need to

be more sensitive to interest rates," he added.

Mr Maude denied that Britain's credit increase was out of control. But he conceded that some people faced problems.

"I do not believe we have a problem with consumer credit but we have a slight problem with consumer debt," he said.

"The problem we are trying to address is not the general level of consumer borrowings but cases where people take on heavier borrowings than they should through not thinking things through."

Mr Maude may also require that loan applications warn borrowers not to sign loan agreements unless they believe they can repay.

The new measures would be in addition to regulations already due to come into effect under the Consumer Credit Act by the end of the year.

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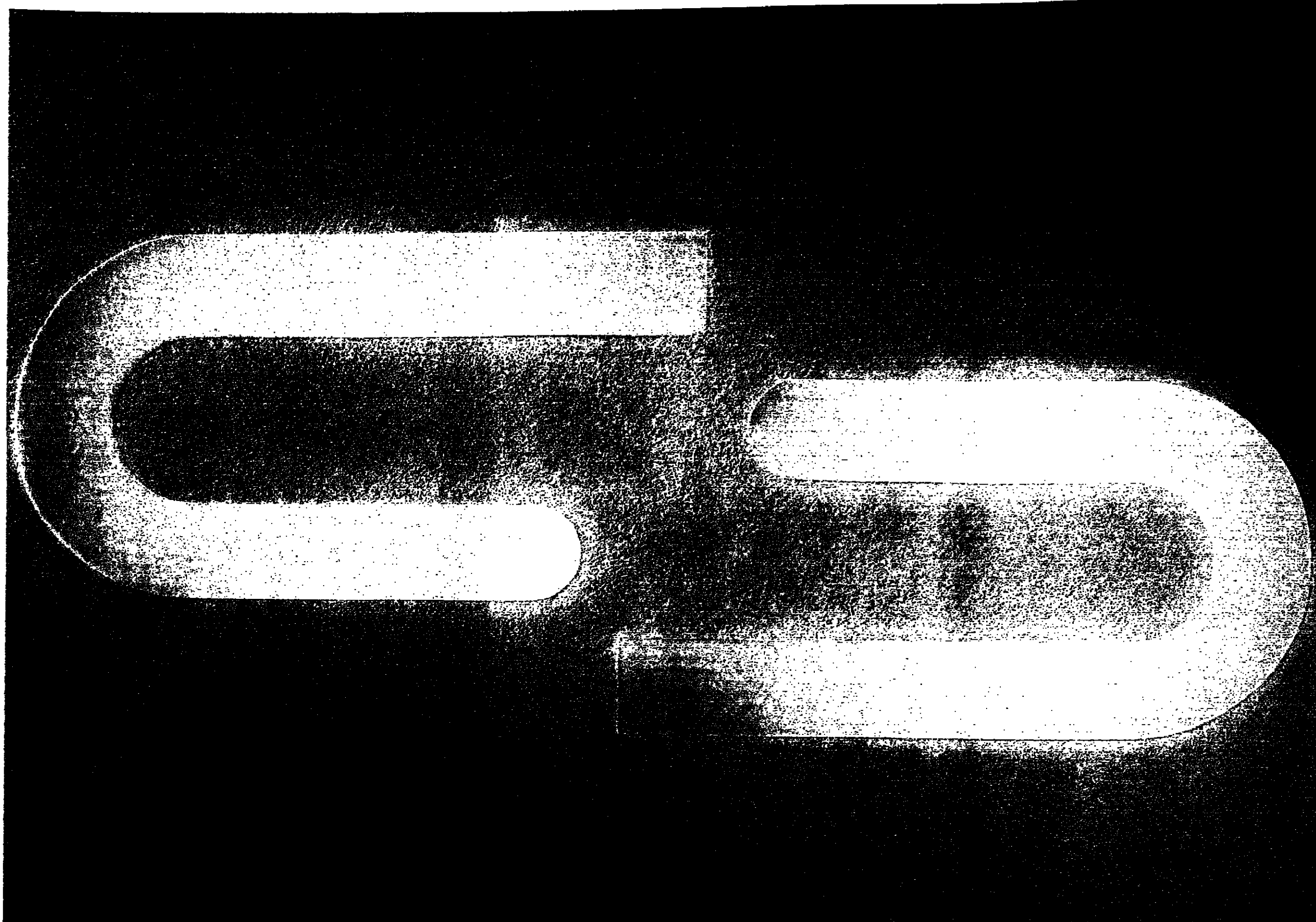
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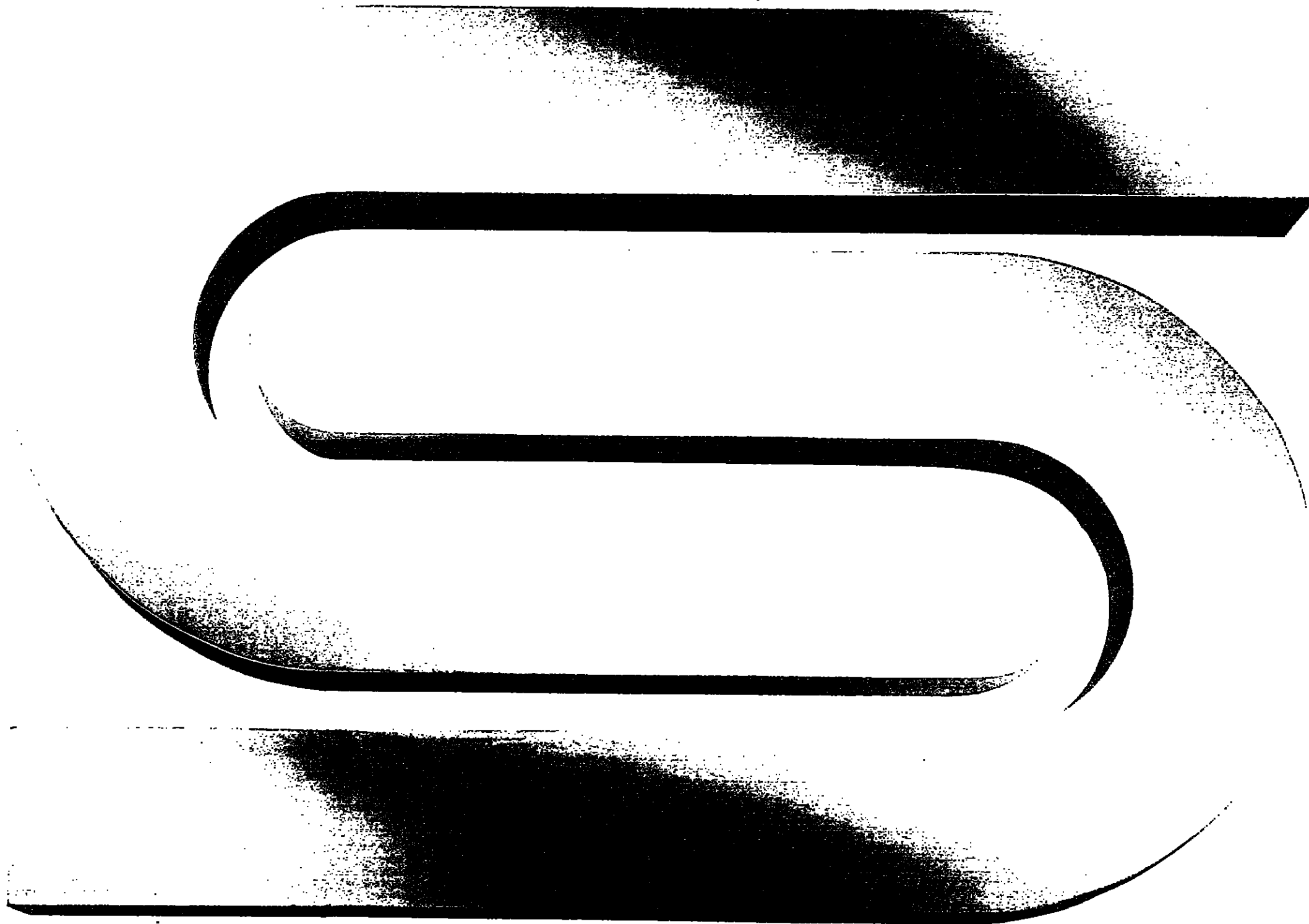
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Le Quesne inquiry into Trade Department's handling of Barlow Clowes almost complete

# Questions Sir Godfray must answer

By Lawrence Lever

Sir Godfray le Quesne, the eyes of 18,000 investors, hundreds of members of Parliament and a handful of anxious civil servants at the Department of Trade and Industry (not to mention a few former ministers at the department), are upon you.

The word is that Sir Godfray's report on the DTI's handling of the Barlow Clowes affair will be published very soon. Certainly, Sir Godfray has been busy writing this week, so perhaps he has finished taking evidence.

In any "independent inquiry" there are bound to be fears that the government will be given the benefit of the doubt, and that the report might deflect attention towards others.

But Sir Godfray, an experienced lawyer with a reputation for thoroughness, will be well aware of this.

Moreover, he will probably know that he was not everybody's ideal choice to lead the Barlow Clowes inquiry.

After all, he is a former chairman of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission — a position which would have brought him into contact with civil servants from departments such as the DTI.

The most important point, however, is that Sir Godfray's report answers all the important questions about how the Department of Trade handled Barlow Clowes.

Why, for instance, was Barlow Clowes allowed to take £80 million from the public for several years without having a licence from the DTI? This was illegal.

It is worrying that the terms of reference for Sir Godfray's inquiry relate only to the DTI's behaviour "since January 1, 1983" in view of the fact



Sir Godfray: thorough

that Barlow Clowes opened for business in 1973 and information on events pre-dating 1983 is highly relevant to any examination of the DTI's handling of Barlow Clowes. This raises several further questions.

How much did the DTI investigate the previous history of Barlow Clowes? Did it, for example, make the connection between Barlow Clowes and the collapse of Farrington Stead, a Manchester-based gilts business, in 1981?

Farrington Stead was a kind of "son of Barlow Clowes" — a gilts management group run by two former Barlow Clowes employees.

Mrs Elizabeth Barlow, the co-founder of Barlow Clowes, subsequently disappeared owing a large amount of money and a warrant was issued for her arrest. Did the DTI know about this?

Sir Godfray will also have to consider the background of warnings given to the DTI before it licensed Barlow Clowes. These came from Nasdim, the intermediaries watchdog, the Bank of England and the Stock Exchange, via the Bank.

A vital question for Sir Godfray is whether it was reasonable for the DTI to take the view in 1985 that Barlow Clowes should be licensed.

Was it reasonable for the DTI to found its decision not to refuse a licence to Barlow Clowes on fears that a refusal could cause it to collapse, with the loss of investors' money?

Should the DTI have licensed Barlow Clowes after its officials had looked at the books and records of the group and been very concerned by what they saw? Barlow Clowes had previously, and wrongly, assured the DTI that its books and records were in good order.

Was it reasonable for the DTI not to ask the Stock Exchange what it knew about the Barlow Clowes principals noted on the 1985 licence application?

Mr Roger Louth of the DTI was certainly interested in the

background of one principal according to a handwritten note he made.

If the DTI had asked the Stock Exchange for its views of this person it might not have looked so favourably on the licence application.

Was it reasonable for the DTI to rely on a series of assurances from Barlow Clowes and its advisers in deciding to grant a licence?

Given the background, should the DTI have monitored Barlow Clowes more closely after the licence was granted?

Should the DTI have been concerned when every single monitoring return from Barlow Clowes was delivered late?

Again, shouldn't bells have rung when one of the monitoring returns for the partnership was rejected by the DTI because the figures did not balance?

## Thorn EMI acquires Visionhire outlets

Granada Group is selling its Visionhire television rental activities in Hong Kong and Australia to Thorn EMI for about £13 million cash. They were acquired with its £250 million takeover of Electronic Rentals Group last year. Granada has already rationalized Electronic Rentals' British and German TV rental and retail business and sold its camping and leisure activities and Northern Ireland retail outlets.

Thorn becomes market leader in Australia with the purchase, which adds 60,000 rental units to its 178,000. In Hong Kong, where it already claims the number one position, a further 18,000 units give it a total of almost 40,000, ahead of the start of stereo TV broadcasting in the Crown colony in 1990. In all Thorn is acquiring 33 outlets and taking on local borrowings of no more than £1 million.

## FAI increases Pearl holding Finlan pays £8.1m for site

Pearl Group, the life assurance company, has again been the object of share buying by FAI, the Australian insurance group whose chairman is Mr Larry Adler. It has raised its stake to 8.09 per cent. Speculation continues that the share buying might eventually lead to a bid for Pearl either by FAI or another financial services group. Pearl Group shares remained almost unchanged at 468p.

Finlan, the land and property developer, has paid £8.1 million for a site in the West End of London, where it will put up a 27,000 sq ft office building and a separate block of retail units and eight flats. The estimated cost of the development is between £8 million and £9 million. The company hopes to sell the developed units for a total of £19 million, indicating a profit of about £2.5 million.

## Porvair ahead 24%

Pre-tax profits at Porvair, the specialist plastics manufacturer which came to the Unlisted Securities Market in June, rose by 24 per cent to £460,000 in the six months to May 31. Turnover increased from £5.08 million to £6.73 million. The company, which was bought out of United Technologies Corporation in 1982, is investing in a new plant and a £1.2 million machine designed to produce Permair, a porous plastic material for use in sportswear and bad-weather clothing.

Poromeric, an alternative to natural leather used in shoes and footballs and the company's principal product, continues to generate healthy profits. Earnings per share were up from 4p to 4.8p. There is no interim payment, but the company hopes to pay a final dividend.

## British Gas Tokyo quote A&C Black rises 8.6%

British Gas, which has more than 2 per cent of its shares held in Japan, will this month become the hundredth foreign company to be listed on the Tokyo stock exchange. The listing will be managed by Nomura Securities. British Gas has been quoted in New York and Toronto since flotation in 1986 but it could not be quoted on the Tokyo exchange until the shares had been fully paid.

## HK 'fighting for staff'

The flight of company managers because of uncertainty over the future in Hong Kong has helped start a fierce recruiting battle for key personnel in the colony, according to MSL International, the executive recruitment consultancy. MSL has been researching the market because it is setting up its first office there to meet the needs of the Hong Kong economy. Recruitment is about to soar in Hong Kong, according to MSL. While the country has competitive advantages in manufacturing it has not yet recruited enough people with the service skills to support the present and expected business growth.

Brake on boom, page 20

## Honorbilt pays £3m for Gallini

By Alexandra Jackson

Gallini, the leisurewear designer and distributor, is changing hands in a deal worth up to £3.24 million.

The buyer is Honorbilt Group, the Third Market quoted menswear business, which will finance the deal through a three-for-eight rights issue raising £2.7 million.

Under the deal, Pentland Industries, the Reebok sports shoes group, exchanges a 25 per cent stake in Gallini for a 20.86 per cent shareholding in the enlarged company. Gallini made a loss of £393,000 in the year to end-March.

News of the purchase and the rights issue, at 20p a share, was accompanied by Honorbilt's results for the year to end-April, showing pre-tax profits up from £156,000 to £544,000. Sales were 18 per cent higher at £14 million compared to £11.9 million in 1986-87.

Honorbilt will initially pay £2 million, with the rest payable in shares, valued at 30p, provided profit targets are met. Honorbilt's shares, first quoted on the Third Market in July 1987, remained unchanged yesterday at 39p.

Mr Harold Tillman, chairman of Honorbilt, said: "Pentland's investment in Honorbilt and the acquisition of Gallini has come at an important moment in the development of the group."

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MORE O'FERRALL

Poster power: Russell Gore-Andrews, chairman of More O'Ferrall, with two of his company's hoardings in London yesterday (Photograph: Mark Pepper)

## More O'Ferrall looks to bright future

By Carol Ferguson

Back-lit bus shelter advertisements have brightened the first half of 1988 for More O'Ferrall, the outdoor poster advertising group.

Pre-tax profits jumped 25 per cent, to £3.45 million, in the six months to June 30, boosted by the belated success of its Adshel subsidiary in letting its entire London net-

work of 600 Superlite bus shelters. They have been let since February, after advertisers had come to terms with a rate card 80 per cent higher than that for unlit bus shelter panels.

Mr Trevor Maund, the group's finance director, said: "To ensure that we could supply the service and get a return on the investment, we

had to establish the rate card. Superlite costs more both in electricity, and in higher maintenance."

Superlite will go national on October 1, with 2,500 Superlite bus shelters. None have been pre-sold, but Mr Maund says there strong interest has been shown. On October 3 an additional 600 London bus shelters will become available. Mr Russell

Gore-Andrews, the chairman, said: "The sustained growth in earnings has arisen from a strong trading position in our major markets, and investment in new developments."

The United Kingdom accounted for 51 per cent of More O'Ferrall's interim revenues of £19.6 million, with most of the rest generated in Europe, principally France and Belgium. All areas had a

good first half, with the exception of Ireland, where the sluggish economy made the market difficult.

Mr Maund said that the outlook for the advertising market in the UK and Europe was reasonably firm, and there was a fairly strong order book.

Interim earnings per share rose 28 per cent to 8.8p, and the dividend was increased by 33 per cent to 2.4p net.

## Telemetrix in £11m US deal

By Martin Waller

Telemetrix, the computer graphics terminal maker where the South African Allied Electronics Corporation (Altron) took a 58 per cent stake this year, intends to acquire Altron's US interests for \$18.72 million (£11.2 million).

The deal is intended to make Telemetrix the main holding company for all the South African group's interests outside the Republic.

Altron owns 38 per cent of GTI, a Californian maker and distributor of electronic components.

GTI agreed earlier this year to buy Esco, an electronic components distributor owned by Altron. Telemetrix now plans to take a 49 per cent stake in GTI.

The aim of the deal is to move Altron's US interests out of South Africa, following last month's acquisition by Telemetrix of the company's British components sourcing business, Component Trading.

It also moves Telemetrix — whose £2.4 million pre-tax losses in the six months to end-January prompted the South African rescue package involving a £7.35 million cash injection — into the more profitable area of components manufacture and distribution.

## PWS shares fall before statement

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Shares in PWS, the troubled Lloyd's insurance broker, fell sharply yesterday after the resignation of Mr Ron Peet, the chairman, on Thursday. Before the company was able to put out a reassuring statement to investors, the shares fell 16p to 130p.

The statement said that PWS was trading profitably this year in spite of a £4 million loss associated with Glenn Nyhan Associates, the US firm it bought in January. The loss led to the resignation three weeks ago of Mr Ronnie Ben-Zur, the chief executive and largest shareholder, who was responsible for the acquisition.

The current PWS share price reflects a 75p fall since Mr Ben-Zur's resignation,

substantially reducing the value of his 42 per cent holding. As yet no buyer has been found for the shares although there has been one approach as well as mild interest from several institutions.

A statement of the company's position was felt essential by J Henry Schroder Wagg, its merchant bank adviser, if the shareholding was to be sold. Schroders has resigned as adviser, however, because it felt that its advice to the PWS board was not being followed.

Mr Peet's resignation was partly the result of his frustration over the company's delay in publishing a statement about its condition and trading position. Mr Peet thought the statement should have been published last week.

## KIO report completed

The report by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission into the 22 per cent holding in BP built up by the Kuwait Investment Office has been submitted to the Department of Trade and Industry.

However, although the report has been completed on schedule, it could be some weeks before Lord Young of

Grafham, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, makes the conclusions public or makes an order on whether the KIO should dispose of any of its holdings. At the same time, he will have to decide whether legal backing will be required for the KIO offer not to use the stake to interfere in the running of BP.

## Director sells stake in March

By Wolfgang Münch

Mr Malcolm Shaw, the joint managing and finance director of March, the troubled racing car producer, has sold his entire family shareholding of 179,500 shares for £134,000. Mr Shaw cited personal financial reasons for his decision.

His action gave rise to speculation that he was about to leave the company, but yesterday he denied this. He said the sale of his stake was not related to a recent series of boardroom resignations.

In August, Mr Robin Herd stepped down as chairman, and two directors, Mr Charles Towns and Dr Lachlan Shackleton-Fergus, resigned. These changes followed the acquisition of a 20 per cent stake in the company by Mr Akira Akagi, chairman of Leyton House, the Japanese industrial property group.

For the six months to April the company reported first-half profits down to £113,000 from a previous £829,000 pre-tax.

The company blamed intense competition and the fall in the dollar for its problems, and expects no improvement in the situation in the second half.

Mr Shaw is the sole executive director still in place since the company was floated on the USM early last year.

## Japan rules out rise in discount rate

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Mr Satoshi Sumita, governor of the Bank of Japan, again ruled out a rise in the Japanese discount rate yesterday, in spite of pressure on the yen and fears of overheating in the economy.

The Bank of Japan is the only leading central bank not to have tightened monetary policy in recent weeks and the attention of the foreign exchange markets has switched to the yen. The dollar rose above the key Y135 level this week and dealers see it heading for Y140. The dollar closed at Y136.75 in Tokyo yesterday.

Mr Sumita told the annual convention of Japan's life assurance companies that while the Bank would keep a close watch on prices and exchange rate movements, it would maintain its current monetary policy stance for the time being.

The Governor said that pressures on capacity and in the labour market were

increasing, but added that he saw no immediate threat to price stability.

Although analysts always regard Bank of Japan statements on the discount rate with a healthy degree of scepticism, the first action by the Japanese authorities in support of the yen would be expected to be in the form of official intervention.

Share prices recovered in Tokyo yesterday, following recent sharp falls. The Nikkei-Dow Jones index rose by 182.24 to 27,116.50.

Figures released in Tokyo showed a decline in Japan's current account surplus in July.

On an adjusted basis, the surplus dipped to \$4.95 billion (£2.96 billion) from \$5.23 billion in June and \$6.31 billion in July last year.

Unadjusted, the surplus was \$6.48 billion in July, marginally up on the \$6.43 billion recorded in June but down

on the \$7.28 billion surplus for July of last year.

The appetite among Japan's financial institutions for purchases of foreign bonds has not subsided. Figures also released yesterday showed that net foreign bond purchases rose to a record \$14.02 billion in July, almost double the \$7.30 billion recorded in June.

However, foreigners were net dis-investors in the Japanese stock market to the tune of \$3.57 billion in July, up from \$2.84 billion in June. On Ministry of Finance figures, although gross purchases of Japanese stocks by foreigners rose from \$14.65 billion to \$17.54 billion, this was offset by an increase in gross sales of stock from \$17.49 billion to \$21.11 billion. Sales of Japanese bonds by foreigners were a net \$1.02 billion in July, following net purchases of \$327 million in June.

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# Plessey has Europe in its sights for next takeover

By Colin Narborough

Plessey, the electronics group, says its next foreign acquisition in defence electronics is likely to be in Europe. The move will remind the market that Plessey is not concentrating purely on North America.

Mr Alan Jones, managing director of Plessey Electronic Systems, declined to say in which country the acquisition would be. Nor would he suggest a possible target beyond saying that it would be on the small side.

"We will be filling in our European strategy," he said.

Mr Jones said extensive collaboration with continental electronics groups had be-

come "vital", noting the recent success of Plessey and Siemens of West Germany in winning lead contracts for Nato's multi-billion pound "friend or foe" identification programme. The British share of the system is expected to be more than £500 million.

Close collaboration with Thomson of France was another part of the company's master plan to establish a local presence in all the major defence electronics markets.

Plessey acquired the Canadian company Leigh Instruments this year with a view to attracting part of Ottawa's growing defence spending. If Vickers is

awarded the contract for a Canadian fleet of submarines, Plessey expects to be in a position to address business worth more than £550 million.

After acquiring Sippican and Singer's ESD in the United States, Plessey is, through a consortium led by Texas Instruments, competing to develop a new watch radar system for the American armed forces worth a total of \$6.2 billion. A decision on the evaluation stage is expected in December.

Mr Jones put Plessey's share of the recent British arms deal with Saudi Arabia at about £100 million, mainly for air-



Eyes on Europe: Wiggins Teape chairman John Worlidge (Photograph Peter Trievnor)

## Wiggins Teape to embark on £200m investment plan

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Wiggins Teape, the paper and pulp subsidiary of BAT Industries, plans a series of investments, likely to include acquisitions, aimed at doubling its turnover in the next five years to more than £2 billion.

One manufacturing prospect, currently the subject of a detailed engineering feasibility study, is to build a £150 million paper-making machine in Portugal to introduce integrated manufacture for eucalyptus pulp.

This is on the same scale of manufacture being carried out by the largest operators in paper and pulp, such as the big Scandinavian paper groups which are increasingly buying into manufacturing bases within the EEC.

In Europe, Wiggins Teape — the continent's biggest producer of carbonless copying paper — is among the top half-dozen paper producers, with three Swedish and two Finnish makers ahead of it.

BAT ranks seventh in the world paper and pulp market. In addition to Wiggins Teape,

BAT's paper interests include Appleton in the United States and pulp and paper production in Brazil.

To maintain its profits record, Wiggins Teape is also looking for acquisitions to extend its product range while staying in higher profit margin sectors, said Mr John Worlidge, the company's chairman and chief executive.

He went on: "Spending to improve efficiency and bring organic growth by adding capacity is now running at about £40 million a year and will probably mean at least £200 million being invested over the next five years. But doubling turnover also means acquisitions and we are looking hard at a number of areas. The moves are likely to be within Europe."

As well as carbonless paper, which accounts for a third of turnover and a half of profits, Wiggins Teape has three core activities: fine papers, paper merchandising and pulp production.

Mr Worlidge said: "We started thinking in European

terms in the early 1960s and set up a paper mill in Belgium. But the single market is going to present fresh opportunities. There is going to be a lot going on in the next six to 12 months and we have to grow quite significantly, with the main focus on Europe."

In Portugal and Spain, Wiggins Teape is exploiting pulp made from the eucalyptus, which grows three times faster than the pine used mainly by the Scandinavians.

An engineering feasibility study for moving to integrated papermaking in Portugal by installing a papermaking machine with an annual capacity of about 220,000 tonnes is due for completion early next year. It means the machine could be running by 1992 or very soon after.

In its trawl for acquisitions, Wiggins Teape will not go into newsprint or high volume, low margin businesses, Mr Worlidge said.

"There are a number of areas where we could use our expertise and broaden our marketing base."

## £4.5m expansion by Doctus

By Our City Staff

Doctus, the management consultancy, has made its first acquisition since its relisting in June last year, with the purchase of a supplier of manpower to the chemical, process and construction industries for a maximum of £4.5 million.

It is buying two related companies, Roevin and KPJ Design. The consideration is in three parts, with £2.3 million payable initially and the balance depending on

profit targets, the first of which is £850,000 in the year to next September.

The first consideration consists of 2.66 million new shares, of which 1.4 million will be offered back to shareholders on a four-for-25 basis at 86p each.

Doctus, formerly Smith Doctus, was formed by the reverse takeover of Smith Whitworth, an ailing carpet machinery manufacturer, by Doctus Management Consul-

# Dunlop's departure triggers queries on the future of BA



KENNETH FLEET

The team put together to privatize British Airways — a formidable and complex exercise successfully completed in February last year — is breaking up. Or to be more accurate, it is being broken up. This is the inference to be drawn from yesterday's statement from a clear blue sky that Gordon Dunlop, who joined BA in 1982 as chief financial officer on his way to becoming finance director the following year, is taking early retirement at the end of this year.

BA recorded its debt to him for his contribution in the early 1980s to turning round the world's least popular large airline; acknowledged his leading role in negotiations leading to the flotation; and remarked on his understanding and assessment of the financial implications of BA's acquisition of British Caledonian. For his part Mr Dunlop observed: "Lord King is 70 and is going to retire; I am 60; Colin Marshall who is going to succeed him will shortly be 55. I had a job to do and I have done it. It is better to go now than later and I have an amicable arrangement with King. But I am not like an old battleship to be sold to Chile. I believe I am still a marketable property and I have no intention of retiring voluntarily to green fields. When I parted company from Commercial Union in 1977 I was the lucky man. I may be again."

A Scottish chartered accountant he joined CU from Hawker Siddeley in 1964 and became chief executive in 1972. "If I am tempted to write a book I already have the title for it — 'Cuba' (Commercial Union British Airways). Although he is resigned to the latest twist in his career — "someone had to

go and it happened to be me" — he is also filled with regret. His close colleagues in BA are dismayed. They feel that the professionalism of Dunlop's department stood out in sharp contrast with other areas of BA management and for that reason it was not universally popular in St James's Square. Although there is no question that Sir Colin Marshall, the chief executive, and Gordon Dunlop worked well together in the years leading up to privatization, they are intellectually and psychologically poles apart. Marshall, who has had a rare career in the higher reaches of both American and British business, would want his own man in the key position of finance director. In the light of recent speculation that he might flee the BA board, room this might have been part of the price of his staying put.

But the man to keep a keen eye on is Lord King of Warraby, who is probably more often underestimated than any other leading business figure in Britain. During the run up to the public sale of BA the adrenalin flowed, the eyes shone, the years seemed to fall away. But in the post-privatization phase, life inevitably was less exciting (the bid for B-Cal was a restorative) and boredom with the routine of a public company set in. Chairman King

began to lose touch with his directors who with privatization behind them appeared less relevant. The news is that he has now emerged from his semi-somnolent phase and is back on active service and in complete charge.

If John King has any enemies, which I doubt, none of them would regard him as a fool. He has evidently begun to look at the BA board but I suspect his recharged ambitions do not end there. BA is still an underrated company and provided it has its quota of good fortune, in two years the stock market will see the error of its current rating of the stock.

The first quarter results published last month bore the marks of integrating the loss-making B-Cal but the original estimate of £100 million in cost savings from putting B-Cal into BA is still valid and should be seen next year. There are a few minuses, but more pluses — and the prospect of hidden treasure in some 600 acres of land currently set in a Victorian mould by the regulations governing them. BA and British Airways Authority have begun a dialogue which unless they are dummies should lead to benefits for both.

The really fascinating speculation is not about the values BA might derive from property, substantial though they are likely to be, but the future ownership of the airline itself. British Airways may seem bid proof but manifestly it is not, except against a foreign buyer.

Certain high-flying predators would be unsuitable in Mrs Thatcher's eyes but not John King's great buddy Lord Hanson. People will gossip, but as they ride the Anenberg estates together tall in the saddle does the subject never come up? I wonder.

## Pound falls into a credibility gap

One month's balance of payments figures have knocked the stuffing out of the stock market and turned the air blue with recriminations against the Chancellor of the Exchequer whose "crimes" include cutting taxes, both lowering and forcing up interest rates, and refusing to be panicked into raising taxes and reviving the panoply of controls over credit and borrowing that were the stock in trade of his Labour predecessors. The latest joke in Budapest is: "What is the definition of Socialism?" Answer: "The long road from capitalism to capitalism."

It would be the end of the Capitalist Reformation in Britain if Thatcherism turned out to be the short road from socialism to socialism.

The £2.1 billion July current account deficit has brought on a crop of anxieties which you can see vividly reflected in a flattened equity market. The devil hath no greater wrath than a City analyst whose balance of payments forecasts are wildly wrong.

Nigel Lawson is suddenly not seen by Tory backbenchers as a future Prime Minister but as a minister in a corner of his own making whose credibility as manager of the economy is now at stake. This is grossly unfair to a man who in the spring had brought UK Ltd closer than it has been to the businessman's Nirvana of sane taxation, continuous growth and relatively stable exchange rates.

But politics are not about fairness. The Chancellor is being blamed for using cheap money to stoke up a virulent boom in consumer spending; driving up the rate of inflation; and reacting to the problem by shooting from the hip with the indiscriminate blunderbuss of high interest rates. The pressure is on him to do something else.

I cannot see it. The Bank of England, which feels surprisingly better without credit controls to play with, does not want them. And the Prime Minister now realizes the damage their scrapping in public did to the Government's

reputation. Number 10 at this stage, will not interfere with Number 11.

Obviously we are stuck with high base rates. Whether this regime alone will purge the excesses of inflation and relieve the balance of payments is anyone's guess. Mine is that it will, though at some considerable cost. If we do see 13 per cent mortgages at a £100,000 loan taken out in the summer would cost a £30,000 a year borrower 43 per cent (£13,000) of his gross income against the £9,500 (32 per cent) originally bargained for.

The foreign exchange market is taking a less sanguine view. The Bank of England had to support the pound in the wake of the weekly banking returns, which is odd and may be worrying because the figures suggested the Treasury might well have to raise base rates to 13 per cent. Credibility on inflation is all.

The stock market has had to take a lot of stick. It cannot be said to have done so without flinching but equities could have behaved much worse.

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## Menvier in £2.7m Dutch buy

By Martin Waller

Menvier-Swain Group, the emergency lighting systems maker, has purchased Blessing Electronics of the Netherlands for 9.7 million florins (£2.7 million).

It is the company's second acquisition since joining the USM in 1986.

The deal provides a third leg for the company. As well as a substantial share of the British market, it has a partly-owned US subsidiary — Electro Powerpacs Corporation, bought last November for \$1.61 million (£965,000).

Blessing makes emergency lighting systems and ancillary equipment, such as standby power supplies, mainly for the Dutch market, of which it has 20 per cent.

Menvier is paying for the purchase by a £1.7 million bank loan, with the balance coming from its own resources.

The deal will push gearing ahead to more than 60 per cent, but the company is confident this can be reduced to about 35 per cent by its April 30 year-end.

## More firms keep staff informed

By Our Industrial Editor

An increase in the number of larger companies which have established a detailed communications policy over the past five years to improve their relationship with employees emerges in a new survey.

The study — carried out jointly by the Institute of Directors and Communications and Employee Relations Training (Certi) — also revealed that the new level of rapport between managements and workforces owed much to the spate of merger and takeover threats.

A third of companies surveyed had been affected by the consequences, or potential impact, of takeovers, mergers or acquisitions that had necessitated closer communications with employees.

Industrial relations problems seem to have been less important. Only one in ten companies reported industrial stoppages of any significant duration during the five years.

The big shift in boardroom attitudes in taking workers more into a company's

confidence was established by a survey of 250 directors from companies of various sizes.

Regular, planned, face-to-face communications between employer and employee have increased by 25 per cent over the past five years. Presentations by top management have gone up 28 per cent.

The number of companies making an annual report to employees is up 14 per cent, 20 per cent more newsletters are being put out and the number of house journals has risen 9 per cent. Video communications show a 19 per cent increase.

One of the factors in producing improvements in communications is the need for companies to secure an acceptance of change as competition heightens and technologies develop.

Many directors in the survey emphasized the need to develop an approach that works.

The shift towards establishing formal

communications policies was most marked among companies employing 1,000 people or more, but smaller businesses also showed a strong commitment to employee involvement.

Smaller businesses listed the impact of increased competition and the consequent need to convey "business realities" among factors influencing communication improvements.

Medium-sized companies felt the need to explain developments to employees, including management changes. A key factor had been crises which showed up the inadequacy of existing communication systems.


Takeover activity was a clear influence on larger companies, 40 per cent of which reported such effects. These companies listed as influences new senior management, the need to increase employee awareness and response to change, and promoting employee involvement, while also needing to meet employee expectations.



**The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading.**

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

**UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS ■ PREP. & PUBLIC  
SCHOOL APPOINTMENTS ■ EDUCATIONAL COURSES  
SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS**  
A wide range of positions in Education appears every Monday.

**MONDAY  
MAKE SURE YOU GET  
YOUR COPY OF  
THE  TIMES**



**WEEKLY DIVIDEND £8,000**  
Claims required for 125 points

**ACCUMULATOR £182,000**  
Claims better than 125 points

**Claimants should ring 0254-53272**

Prices reflect the market at 4pm. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 20)

1988		Price		Gross		YTD %	P/E
High	Low	Bid	Offer	Chg	Vol		
214	16	124	38	..	..	..	5b
215	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
216	17	124	38	+2	106	27	35.2
217	17	124	38	+1	..	..	..
218	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
219	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
220	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
221	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
222	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
223	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
224	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
225	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
226	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
227	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
228	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
229	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
230	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
231	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
232	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
233	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
234	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
235	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
236	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
237	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
238	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
239	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
240	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
241	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
242	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
243	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
244	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
245	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
246	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
247	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
248	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
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250	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
251	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
252	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
253	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
254	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
255	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
256	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
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259	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
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263	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
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280	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
281	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
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293	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
294	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
295	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
296	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
297	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
298	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
299	16	124	38	..	..	..	..
300	16	124	38	..	..	..	..

11	964	Steel (A)
340	183	Silkstone
166	91	Sovereign

[illegible]

266	212	Abbott Memo
44	32	Anderson Don
271	238	Assoc Paper
430	375	HPP

119	189	Barber (Charles)	157	157	45	45	28	174	114
120	190	Barnes (John)	157	157	45	45	28	174	114
121	191	Barnes (Mason)	157	157	45	45	28	174	114
122	192	Barnes (Mason)	157	157	45	45	28	174	114
123	193	Barnes (Mason)	157	157	45	45	28	174	114
124	194	Barnes (Mason)	157	157	45	45	28	174	114
125	195	Barnes (Mason)	157	157	45	45	28	174	114
126	196	Barnes (Mason)	157	157	45	45	28	174	114
127	197	Barnes (Mason)	157	157	45	45	28	174	114
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130	200	Barnes (Mason)	157	157	45	45	28	174	114
131	201	Barnes (Mason)	157	157	45	45	28	174	114
132	202	Barnes (Mason)	157	157	45	45	28	174	114
133	203	Barnes (Mason)	157	157	45	45	28	174	114
134	204	Barnes (Mason)	157	157	45	45	28	174	114
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175	245	Barnes (Mason)	157	157	45	45	28	174	114
176	246	Barnes (Mason)	157	157	45	45	28	174	114
177	247	Barnes (Mason)	157	157	45	45	28	174	114
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182	252	Barnes (Mason)	157	157	45	45	28	174	114
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185	255	Barnes (Mason)	157	157	45	45	28	174	114
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253	323	Barnes (Mason)	157	157	45	45	28	174	114
254	324	Barnes (Mason)	157	157	45	45	28	174	114
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258	328	Barnes (Mason)	157	157	45	45	28	174	114
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264	334	Barnes (Mason)	157	157	45	45	28	174	114
265	335	Barnes (Mason)	157	157	45	45	28	174	114
266	336	Barnes (Mason)	157	157	45	45	28	174	114
267	337	Barnes (Mason)	157	157	45	45	28	174	114
268	338								

237	125	Si Free Gp
451	339	Saatchi Top
108	80	Da Conv

415	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
416	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
417	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
418	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
419	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
420	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
421	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
422	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
423	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
424	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
425	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
426	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
427	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
428	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
429	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
430	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
431	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
432	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
433	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
434	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
435	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
436	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
437	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
438	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
439	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
440	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
441	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
442	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
443	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
444	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
445	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
446	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
447	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
448	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
449	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
450	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
451	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
452	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
453	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
454	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
455	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
456	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
457	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
458	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
459	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
460	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
461	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
462	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
463	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
464	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
465	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
466	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
467	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
468	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
469	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
470	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
471	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
472	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
473	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
474	St. Louis	408	+2	5.3	10	10.5
47						

PROPERTY									
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10	Alfred Law	114	118	+2	3.8	3.8	15.6
31	99	10							

20	585	Bradford
261	247	Br Land (aq)
338	218	Brookman

[illegible]

88	95	Kentish Prod
53	316	Lang Prop
02	450	Land Sec (ad
ED	438	Land Lon

[illegible]

180	Allen & Unwin
114	Scott McI
118	Statutory
52	Shannon Soc

14	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
15	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
16	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
17	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
18	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
19	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
20	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
21	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
22	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
23	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
24	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
25	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
26	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
27	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
28	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
29	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
30	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
31	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
32	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
33	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
34	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
35	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
36	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
37	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
38	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
39	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
40	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
41	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
42	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
43	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
44	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
45	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
46	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
47	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
48	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
49	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
50	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
51	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
52	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
53	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
54	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
55	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
56	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
57	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
58	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
59	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
60	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
61	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
62	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
63	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
64	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
65	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
66	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
67	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
68	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
69	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
70	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
71	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
72	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
73	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
74	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
75	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
76	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
77	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
78	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
79	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
80	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
81	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
82	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
83	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
84	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
85	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
86	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
87	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
88	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
89	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
90	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
91	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
92	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
93	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
94	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
95	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
96	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
97	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
98	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
99	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8
100	Shells	76	81	•	•	51	72.8

SHIPPING							
1	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
2	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
3	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
4	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
5	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
6	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
7	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
8	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
9	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
10	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
11	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
12	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
13	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
14	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
15	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
16	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
17	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
18	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
19	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
20	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
21	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
22	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
23	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
24	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
25	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
26	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
27	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
28	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
29	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
30	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
31	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
32	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
33	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
34	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
35	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
36	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
37	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
38	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
39	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
40	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
41	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
42	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
43	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
44	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
45	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
46	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
47	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
48	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
49	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
50	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
51	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
52	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
53	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
54	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
55	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
56	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
57	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
58	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
59	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
60	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
61	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
62	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
63	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
64	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
65	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
66	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
67	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
68	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
69	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
70	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
71	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
72	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
73	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
74	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
75	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
76	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
77	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
78	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
79	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
80	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
81	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
82	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
83	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
84	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
85	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
86	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
87	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
88	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
89	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
90	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
91	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
92	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
93	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
94	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
95	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
96	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
97	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
98	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
99	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1
100	Atlantic Dr Ports	495	505	•	10.3	21	15.1

262	263	Jacobus (31)
265	263	Mersey Docks
266	244	Ocean Transp
269	501	P & O Ltd (4)

[illegible]

53	34	Botton
21	180	Br Motor
68	55	Coral
222		Br Motor

137	California (ex)	117	122							1.8
138	Colorado	117	122	+	+	+	+	+	+	1.8
139	Danvers	116	120	+	+	+	+	+	+	1.8
140	Denver	114	114							1.8
141	Denver	114	114							1.8
142	Denver	114	114							1.8
143	Denver	114	114							1.8
144	Denver	114	114							1.8
145	Denver	114	114							1.8
146	Denver	114	114							1.8
147	Denver	114	114							1.8
148	Denver	114	114							1.8
149	Denver	114	114							1.8
150	Denver	114	114							1.8
151	Denver	114	114							1.8
152	Denver	114	114							1.8
153	Denver	114	114							1.8
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159	Denver	114	114							1.8
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161	Denver	114	114							1.8
162	Denver	114	114							1.8
163	Denver	114	114							1.8
164	Denver	114	114							1.8
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167	Denver	114	114							1.8
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174	Denver	114	114							1.8
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317	Denver	114	114							1.8
318	Denver	114	114							1.8
319	Denver	114	114							1.8
320	Denver	114	114							1.8
321	Denver	114	114							1.8
322	Denver	114	114							1.8
323	Denver	114	114							1.8
324	Denver	114								

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13	988	BAT (zx)	433	435	• ..	23.2	5.3	8.9
10	125	Coca-Cola	138	139				
17	365	Rotmans: 6' (zx)	472	474	• +2.1	13.3	3.2	8.0

Ex dividend a Ex alt to Forecast dividend e Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment h Pre-merger figures i forecast earnings o Ex other k Ex regios a Ex scrip or share split r Tax-free .. No significant data.

● Ex dividend ● Ex all b Forecast dividend ● Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment h Pre-merger figures i Forecast earnings ● Ex other r Ex rights s Ex schp or share split t Tax-free .. No significant data.







## FAMILY MONEY

Britain's credit boom has inevitably produced casualties. Maria Scott looks at the growing business of lending to those who are already failing to cope with their financial obligations

# Danger in the debt ocean

"Problem loans! We can stop repossessions," shouts one headline in the small-ads pages of a tabloid newspaper. "County Court judgements and mortgage arrears are no problem," another purrs. Britain's moneylenders have not been slow to spot their chance: lending to borrowers who have already fallen by the wayside is now big business, and it is growing by the day.

Some of the lenders who have moved into this new market are familiar to us all — banks and building societies who offer fresh loans to the financially hard-pressed at little more than normal rates. Others are not so well known. They inhabit a shadowy world where interest rates can reach stratospheric levels of 300 per cent or more and brokers can take commissions of up to 20 per cent of a new loan.

These new markets for problem borrowers have been pioneered by finance houses, but interest is now spreading much further. The merchant bank Close Brothers, for example, admits that some of the money it lends through its second mortgage subsidiary Clearbrook Trust goes to people with debt problems. A number of small building societies have also become interested in this area of the market, offering complete re-mortgages which may allow the borrower to release capital tied up in their homes to repay other debts.

While Close Brothers and the building societies are quite candid about their involvement in this sector of the lending market — they have nothing to hide, they insist — others are not. Indeed, this area of the lending market is shrouded in a good deal of secrecy and brokers are generally unwilling to disclose their sources of finance, pleading "commercial confidentiality".

Much of the embarrassment in this market is caused by the fierce criticism levelled at brokers and lenders by debt counsellors and consumer organizations, who are critical of lending to people with existing debts, particularly if the new loans are intended to replace existing ones.

"In most cases you are exchanging unsecured debt for secured debt," explains Helen Jagielski, co-ordinator of the South East of England Money Advice Support Unit, an operation which provides training and advice for money advice services. "It is a step down the slippery slope to insolvency. We would usually advise against it unless the problem can be resolved within a fairly short time, say six to 10 months. Usually this is not the case."

There is talk within the industry of money from private individuals, looking for new investment opportunities, leaking into the market through intermediaries such as solicitors and accountants.

Tony Murtagh of the Manchester credit broking operation Richard and Murtagh, whose right to a credit broking licence is currently being reviewed by the Office of Fair Trading following a number of allegations in the media about its methods of dealing with clients, says that it gets money through solicitors. Murtagh specializes in lending to people with debt problems. I invited the solicitors, through Murtagh, to explain how their operations worked, but they have not come forward.

Terry Babbs, who until June was chairman of the fair trading standards committee of the Institute of Trading Standards, says investigations by trading standards officers indicate that some solicitors have acted as intermediaries in the second mortgage market, introducing money on behalf of close business associates.

Interest in lending to people with debt problems is further evidence of the credit explosion. Not only are consumers keener than ever to borrow, but so too are lenders keener than ever to lend, especially to the army of British home-owners who can provide an ever-appreciating asset as security. Now lenders are identifying opportunities to recycle debts perhaps several times over, as people use borrowing as a way to sort out over-commitment.

Helen Jagielski says that counsellors in the South-East are seeing an increasing number of people who have been able to borrow while already in debt. "They can capitalize on the tremendous equity in their homes," she observes.

David Broadbent, founder and managing director of Holme Finance, a Southampton credit broker which arranges and administers loans for Close Brothers' Clearbrook Trust, says that the whole of the second mortgage market is awash with money: "Sometimes it feels as though there are more lenders than there are borrowers."

Nicholas Stevenson, a director of the merchant bank and of Clearbrook Trust, says the bank's involvement is part of its strategy of being a "niche player" in the financial services industry. Close Brothers sees this as putting a toe into the waters of the general mortgage market, and it is now looking at ways to enter lending for first mortgages.

It classifies the bad-debt end of the second mortgage market as specialist business where it can make a decent return without having to take on the big second mortgage companies. The top rate of interest charged on a Clearbrook Trust loan is 34 per cent (APR), a rate which Stevenson describes as "quite decent but not at the crazy level".

The bank claims that loans to individuals with existing bad debts form only a fraction of Clearbrook's portfolio, and it insists that it can lend "soundly" at this end of the market. It will not grant a loan if combined interest payments on all borrowings, including the proposed loan from Clearbrook, were to exceed a third of average income.

Stevenson says that those borrowers who do have debt problems will usually be only in temporary difficulty, perhaps because of marriage breakdown. They will not be chronic mismanagers or the poverty-stricken who will have no hope of clearing the new debt. He also says that he does not believe that the loans made by Clearbrook trusts are the type which are causing concern to debt counsellors and consumer organizations.

This type of business is also becoming popular with some of the small building societies. They claim it can be profitable for them because they have the type of operations which can cope with the extra work involved with vetting and monitoring this type of loan applicant.

Like Stevenson at Close Brothers, Jeffrey Allard, managing director of the West Bromwich Building Society, also dissociates the loans his society makes from criticism. What he is aiming to do, he says, is offer a fair rate to this type of borrowers. At present the West Bromwich will lend to someone with a debt problem at 12.75 per cent (13.6 per cent APR) to 13 per cent (13.9 per cent APR), compared with its standard mortgage rate of 11.5 per cent.

Allard, who pioneered this sort of lending at the Portsmouth Building Society, which he left

## CASE HISTORY: MR T GETS BURNED

While some people may well be able to borrow their way out of debt, money advice centres see many who get into difficulties by trying to solve their problems this way.

In its survey of people who sought help from advice centres, the National Consumer Council heard of the plight of Mr T, who borrowed £2,000 from a finance house to clear other debts.

Mr T had originally borrowed money for home improvements, and in the process had transferred the mortgage from the local authority — he had been a sitting tenant — to a building society. He found the costs of transferring the loan, such as the solicitor's fees, unexpectedly high.

While working overtime to raise money, Mr T had an accident at work and was

severely burned. He was off work for six months and it was during this period that he borrowed to tide himself over.

But Mr T's borrowings became unmanageable. He sought advice from a debt counsellor and had to be dissuaded from taking out yet another loan to keep his creditors at bay. Instead, Mr T's plight was explained to the building society and finance house, and agreements were reached on amounts which could be repaid each month.

However, at the time the NCC was told of Mr T's case he was still trying to negotiate an agreement with a bank over a further outstanding debt. Although this was unsecured, the bank was trying to get a court to approve a charge on the property.

## CASE HISTORY: MRS G CATCHES A COLD

Few of us are immune, counsellors insist, to the possibility of suddenly finding our mortgage, credit card bills and personal loans unmanageable. For most people, problems set in after an unexpected change of circumstances.

This was clear from the cases reported to the NCC during its survey. Mrs G, for example, borrowed £2,500 from a finance house to install central heating. Her

marriage broke up before the loan was repaid. Mrs G had pre-empted problems by contacting the finance house, which, she said, had been very understanding, agreeing to freeze the interest so that payments could be reduced.

However, the debt remained a burden for Mrs G and at the time her case was reported, she was still hoping that her ex-husband would take over the repayments.

cent of the market was controlled by Cedar Holdings, part of the Lloyds Bank group, Canada Permanent, now part of Associated Capital Corporation, First National Bank, previously First National Securities, and United Dominions Trust, part of the TSB group. All of these companies say that they do not lend to people with existing debt problems.

A survey by the pollsters Market Opinion Research International (MORI) for the National Consumer Council in March 1987 suggested that one million British consumers had loans secured on their homes for purposes other than purchase of the property itself. The NCC believes the true figure may be considerably higher.

About three-quarters of the loans taken out by these one million had been used for home improvements, extensions and repairs, 16 per cent were used for business purposes, and 6 per cent went on cars and other consumer goods. Five per cent were being used to pay off existing debts.

But when the NCC looked at the cases of 114 people who had visited 30 consumer advice centres for help with debt problems, it discovered that the borrowing pattern was rather different than that for the general population of second mortgage borrowers.

The NCC says in its report: "Three-quarters had borrowed from finance houses. Although most loans were originally for home improvements, a third of loans had been used to pay off other debts. The debtors tended to be married with dependants. A third were unemployed, sick or economically inactive, and a quarter were wholly dependant on state benefits. Particularly worrying is the fact that two-thirds of the respondents had been in financial difficulties at the time the loan was taken out."

Emotions are running high throughout the whole of the lending industry at present, and nowhere more so than the sector involving people with debt problems. First National Bank is one of the largest finance houses. David Cowham, a director, says that the company does not lend to people with debt problems because "fundamentally we disapprove of this kind of business". However, Cowham also says that the current "crusade" for preventing people in difficulties from taking on more debt may be misguided. Stopping this type of lending would not solve the problem, he argues. People desperate to borrow would still find the money, but possibly at much higher differentials to the going market rate than are charged now.

"We live in a consumer society," he says, "and as a form of society it has been demonstrated to be better than most others dreamt up by mankind. This society relies on financial freedom. You can't legislate for every human condition." Debt counsellors can help with debt problems, he concedes, "but in the end they can't make the debt go away."

Nevill Chan, director of Kingshill Finance (Harrow), a broker which advertises nationally to attract business from people with financial problems, would agree with him. "There is only so much that you can do to protect people from themselves," he says.

At present, Kingshill charges between 23.7 per cent (APR) and 32 per cent (APR) on secured loans to people with a poor credit record. On a £5,000 loan over 10 years, the monthly repayments would vary from £104 to £125, and the total cost of the loan from £12,480 to £15,000. On top of this there might be a fee for arrangement of the loan, if the finance company does not pay Kingshill a commission.

Lloyds Bowmaker, a subsidiary of Lloyds Bank, would charge an APR of 17.4 per cent (APR) on the same loan over the same period, a monthly cost of £84.38 and a total of £10,125.60.

A secured personal loan for the same amount, over the same period, with the Halifax Building Society would cost 14.7 per cent (APR), £77.03 a month, a total of £9,243.60.

The difference with the second and third examples is that Lloyds Bowmaker and the Halifax would not lend to people with a debt problem.

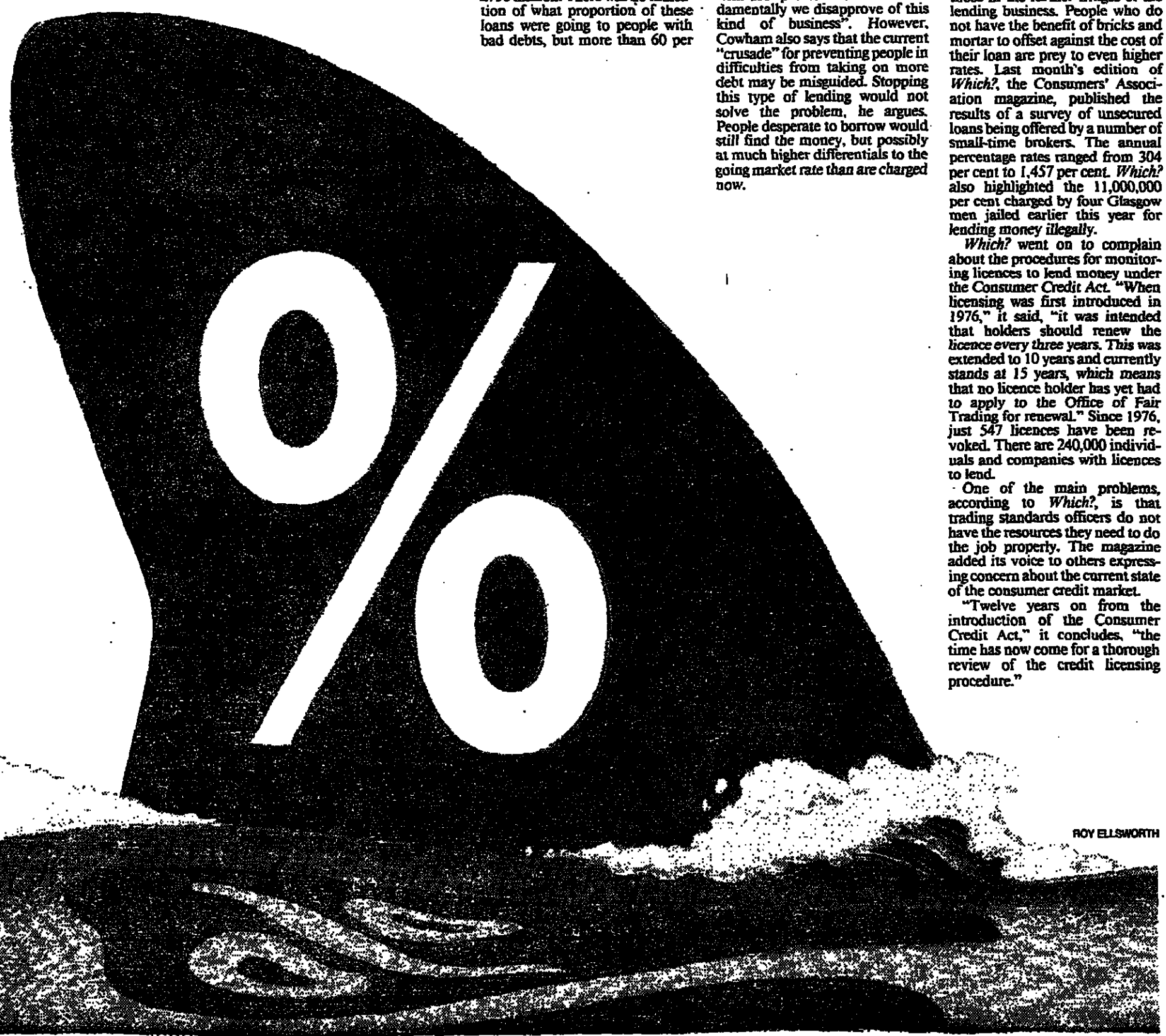
But Kingshill's rate and Close Brothers' 34 per cent (APR) are not out of line with those generally quoted in this area of the secured lending market. While they might seem high, a court would be most unlikely to rule them as extortionate. There is no legal definition of an extortionate rate of credit at present.

In any case, these rates look like giveaways compared with some of those in the further fringes of the lending business. People who do not have the benefit of bricks and mortar to offset against the cost of their loan are prey to even higher rates. Last month's edition of *Which?*, the Consumers' Association magazine, published the results of a survey of unsecured loans being offered by a number of small-time brokers. The annual percentage rates ranged from 304 per cent to 1,457 per cent. *Which?* also highlighted the 11,000,000 per cent charged by four Glasgow men jailed earlier this year for lending money illegally.

*Which?* went on to complain about the procedures for monitoring licences to lend money under the Consumer Credit Act. "When licensing was first introduced in 1976," it said, "it was intended that holders should renew the licence every three years. This was extended to 10 years and currently stands at 15 years, which means that no licence holder has yet had to apply to the Office of Fair Trading for renewal." Since 1976, just 547 licences have been revoked. There are 240,000 individuals and companies with licences to lend.

One of the main problems, according to *Which?*, is that trading standards officers do not have the resources they need to do the job properly. The magazine added its voice to others expressing concern about the current state of the consumer credit market.

"Twelve years on from the introduction of the Consumer Credit Act," it concludes, "the time has now come for a thorough review of the credit licensing procedure."



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# FAMILY MONEY

## Sid and his friends count the cost of their share boom days

**You thought it was safe to return to equities? JOHN BELL, City Editor, looks at prospects as high interest rates and a yawning trade gap plunge the stock market into gloom again**

The archetypal small investor invented by the Government to speed the sale of British Gas shares must be feeling glum these days. Or as Sid would undoubtedly say himself, as sick as a parrot.

The army of small investors who took the plunge into share ownership during the past couple of years are sadder, wiser and mostly poorer for the experience. Unitholders too, are in the same boat, learning the bitter truth of the warning they read when they chose their investments. Since the autumn of last year they know only too well that unit prices can go down as well as up.

What has gone wrong, all these people might well ask as they enjoy the benefits of Budget tax cuts or struggle to cope with busier trade than they have seen for a decade?

To understand the gloom that pervades the City of London at present it is essential to grasp one crucial fact. Financial markets are much more concerned with the future than the events of the day.

To a great extent they are trying to

anticipate the course of currencies, interest rates and especially company profits six to 18 months from now. On that score, it is indeed difficult to remain entirely cheerful. If your broker's spectacles are still rose-tinted, it is probably because he foresees another bloodbath in the market.

The roots of the present anxiety are twofold — one global, the other domestic. The international factor is a trend in most of the major economies towards higher rates of interest — a key determinant of both business activity and the valuation of financial assets such as shares and bonds. Dearest money is bad for both.

The domestic factor is the Chancellor's management of the economy. Nigel Lawson has been running things with a light touch for much of the past year, despite Britain's booming rates of economic activity.

Like other finance ministers around the world, he eased his grip on the reins after the stock market crash last October. It was a standard remedy in order to prevent an economic recession after the crash. Like his fellow ministers, he was wrong in thinking that the crash would have dire consequences.

The Budget tax cuts added more fuel to an economy that already showed signs of overheating.

Those of us who believe that great economic benefits will emerge

**DO TELL SID**

How investors were tempted into British Gas: Where is Sid today?

through lower taxation have little quarrel with his decision. With perfect hindsight, though, he might have taken back a little of the benefits elsewhere.

Certainly the Chinese torture of seven half-point rises in base rate, when signs of overheating and nascent inflation were becoming increasingly obvious, were too little and too slow.

As those appalling July trade figures made abundantly clear, the brakes have to go on in order to rein back imports and damp down inflationary pressures.

For reasons of political conviction, the Chancellor has few weapons at his disposal apart from interest rates. There will be no return to hire purchase controls, curbs on bank lending or the rest of the largely discredited interventionist measures of the 1960s and 1970s.

History shows that interest rates are a blunt weapon of economic management. In time, though, they will do the

trick: But there will be pain meanwhile. Interest rates have to rise further before the economy cools down. The upshot for investors is a slowdown in profits and higher yields on gilt-edged stocks and other fixed interest investments. Both are bad for ordinary shares.

Some City men feel that we are now at the start of the second leg of the bear market that began last October.

Shares in companies with high borrowings and the high street chains look especially vulnerable to dear money and lower consumer spending. House-builders, leisure companies and makers of consumer goods also face a cloudy future for a while.

All of this is not to say that we are in for a crash of October 1987 proportions. Even taking account of slower profits growth to come, shares are not expensive in historical terms.

Share prices will go lower in the coming months, but there is little case for a sharp sell-off. Private investors showing handsome profits might consider weeding out their portfolios and securing gains. There is little point in liquidating shares or unit trust holdings altogether.

On the brighter side, cash is always king in these markets. Fixed-interest investments of all kinds will repay study. And there is inevitably a roaring bull market in gilts to come when interest rates finally peak.

## New light on Peps

Personal Equity Plans (Peps) have not been as popular as the Government hoped. But Dominion Investment Management has devised a scheme which it believes will show them in a new light.

The Dominion Tax-Free Plan invites investment in a series of personal equity plans. Money goes into UK equities and the investment management is provided by Profitic Asset Management. The plan makes use of all the usual Pep tax breaks, allowing investors to take income and capital gains tax free after holding shares for at least one calendar year.

Peps are intended to be long-term investments, and the management charges normally imposed on them help to encourage this. Dominion is recommending five years as the minimum period for its plan. After that a tax-free lump sum can be extracted or rolled-up dividends can be drawn to provide tax-free income.

Dominion admits individuals could construct the same plan for themselves, but the advantage with its scheme is convenience, life assurance cover on contributions and loyalty bonuses. The minimum investment is £500 a year, in a lump sum or £50 a month.

Fewer than 10 per cent of the 1,212 unit trusts surveyed by Opal Statistics made money for their investors during August. The best performance of the month came from GAM North American, a rise of 7.3 per cent

on an offer-to-offer basis. Indeed trusts invested in North America dominated the list of the top 25 performers, reflecting a rally on Wall Street.

The rise in UK base rates to 12 per cent and the subsequent slump in the UK stock market reflects in the performance figures for UK-invested unit trusts. Seven of the bottom 25 performers were UK trusts. Takeover activity was responsible for the most spectacular movements in investment trust prices last month. Bid speculation



pushed Cambrian & General up 12.2 per cent, taking it to the top of the league table. TR Industrial and General, which was the subject of a bid from the British Coal Pension Fund, gained 9.57 per cent, taking second place.

Abbey National Building Society is offering a mortgage fixed at 11.3 per cent for three years from the date the loan is completed. Abbey believes it is the first building society to offer a fixed-rate mortgage. The offer opens on Monday, September 5.

At the end of the three-year term the rate reverts to whatever the society is charging for home loans at that time. The minimum loan will be £40,000 and the society will lend up to 90 per cent of valuation. The mortgage must be linked to an endowment.

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## FAMILY MONEY

### Cash covered by the big umbrella



Ballet: ideal pastime, good exercise and an added expense

### The bouncing baby and the soaring cost

Princess Beatrice of York was one of Britain's estimated 57,000 babies born in August. SALLY ADAMS looks at the likely costs for parents

The average cost of bringing up a baby to the age of 16 has been calculated by the Family Policy Studies Centre at £30,000. On this reckoning the average cost per year will be about £1,875.

But for parents who prefer a private education, or are keen for their children to pursue expensive hobbies, the costs will be much greater.

A single term this autumn at Millfield School in Somerset will cost £2,590 for senior boarders. Music, if required, is an extra £50, and riding and polo £95. Non-UK taxpayers may be charged as much as £3,880 a term.

However, 30-40 per cent of pupils are on some form of bursary. "There are no sporting scholarships. That's a myth I'm trying to kill," says the headmaster Brian Gaskell. "All-rounders' bursaries go to children with a good grammar school brain, together with some other strength." They can reduce fees by between 5 and 78 per cent.

If no expense is spared, a child can be born in a private hospital such as Queen Charlotte's (about £2,000), attend an independent school (average cost per term £1,725 and rising about 12 per cent a year), go to dances in an Etonian gown (£6,000) and have a Carole Radley portrait painted (£920-£1,495).

Brush parents are having fewer children but spending more on them. Some observers say a baby is the latest status symbol and that parents, under the pressure to succeed, attempt to buy their child, and themselves, future success with an expensive education with as many frills as possible.

The cost of a baby's first year is estimated at £2,500 for layette, furnishings, equipment and food. But as every parent knows, a cot, a high chair and nappies are just the beginning.

A father of three, partner in a firm of head-hunters, said: "The cost of bringing up children is terrific. It's the sheer fact the little blighters grow so quickly. Olivia took them shopping two days ago and spent £120 on shoes. We're off on holiday to Portugal this week and had to take help, or it's no holiday at all, so I had to buy six airline tickets and hire two cars."

His costs include a live-in nanny for £55 a week, £1,800 a

term for his sons' prep school, £500 a term for his seven-year-old daughter, and £300 a term for the 2½-year-old's nursery school. They live in central London, which explains the school fees. "Unless you get on with the vicar," he says, "there's difficulty getting them into school. I'm not particularly Anglican-minded!"

Once you pass the national average of two children per family, expenses rise. Two old hands, a Cardiff consultant and his social worker wife, who have four children, comment: "Finding holiday places for six is not only expensive. There are fewer of them. They add to the wear and tear on furniture and carpets—all that running up and down stairs."

And you may even have to move to a bigger house. The financial pressure of bringing up children is felt most keenly by the single parent. The school fees paid by the previous London couple in one year (£7,800) are only a little more than one single parent, a writer on alternative medicine, has paid out in child care over four and a half years (£7,300).

She estimates that the biggest cost to her was loss of income: "No single mother can give total commitment to a job." The most crippling factor has been child care.

"There was a time when the woman who cared for Ben was earning more than I was, with what I was paying her and what she got from social security," she said.

Her earnings and outgoings are so low—she was ill for two years, got into debt and had to extend her mortgage—that her accountant thinks she may have trouble getting the Inland Revenue to believe her returns. Frugality is a way of life. "The main thing is not to turn your nose up at anything second-hand," she says. "Beg, borrow, take out of skips..."

However, Janice Parrock, editor of *Young Mother*, comments: "I meet readers from all walks of life. Many problems about parenthood are discussed but money hardly ever comes into it. Ultimately, you spend what you can afford and none of it matters at all."

The Cardiff parents of four adventure-prone children, including 19-year-old twins, advise: "To buy everything new is incredibly foolish. Better save money for the children later on. They don't appreciate being in the best coat or pram."

The husband, having just survived an action-packed summer complete with panic calls from abroad, added: "It's not the wear and tear on the pocket that counts, but the wear and tear on the mind!"

Did you know that with just one telephone call, you can sell the United States and buy Japan, or pull out of shares and bolt for cash?

What's more, the only bill you will get is the one from British Telecom.

If you think that sounds too good to be true you obviously haven't yet met umbrella funds on your investment travels.

Based offshore, mainly in the Channel Islands or Luxembourg, umbrella funds take over where unit trusts stop. That is because an umbrella is not just one fund, but 10, 15 or even 20. Strictly speaking, umbrella funds are not funds but sub-funds or different share classes, all contained within the legal structure of an offshore investment company.

But that is a nicey. The point is that you can use an umbrella to construct your own portfolio of investments from among the world's equity, bond and currency markets, and switch your money between them easily and cheaply.

You will not be landed immediately with a bill for Capital Gains Tax either—switches between sub-funds do not count as realizations for Capital Gains Tax purposes, as is the case with authorized unit trusts.

You can, therefore, defer paying the tax indefinitely, or at least until cashing in your investment.

So much for the plus points. Where's the catch? The only real disadvantage is that to take full advantage of umbrellas, you have to commit a lot of money to one management group, and few groups can consistently produce good or above average performances across the whole range of their funds.

This is an important point. You could find yourself locked into an underperforming fund by the prospect of triggering a large and unplanned Capital Gains Tax bill if you were to cash in.

For the fund managers, however, this is a dream come true. Not only do they capture your entire portfolio instead of just a chunk, but they also ensure they do not lose your money in falling markets by including cash funds under the umbrella.

This unbeatable formula was pioneered by the Gartmore and Guinness Flight fund management groups in 1984, and its obvious success has persuaded many other well known names in the unit trust business to follow suit.

But the original concept has been watered down in the process.

The innovative charging structure of the Gartmore fund, for example, has not been copied by any other group so far. Gartmore does not impose a front-end charge, leaving the fee arrangement to be sorted out between you and your financial adviser. So if you bypass the middle man and go direct to the managers, it does not cost you anything to get into the fund.

You do not pay to switch between the 21 sub-funds either. The only charge Gartmore makes is a 1 per cent management fee (0.75 per cent on cash funds). But the group does demand a decent commitment in return, setting a minimum investment level of 25,000 US dollars, equivalent to around £15,000.

Most of the other umbrella funds require only £1,000, although that is usually per sub-fund, and they commonly set an initial charge of 5 per cent and an annual management fee of 1 per cent.

But the enthusiasm for cheap or free switching has survived more or less unscathed. The best deal of completely free switching is available from five or six groups, including Aetna, Capital House, Citibank, Scimitar, and Sun Life. Several more allow you up to, say, six free switches a year, then reserve the right to charge.

Others, such as Guinness Flight and Henderson, charge a flat fee of £25 or £50 per switch, mainly to discourage over-activity. This is likely to be a cheaper deal than the

Abbey, Henderson and Tyndall, for example, have left out fixed interest funds, while Fidelity and Oppenheimer—now owned by Gartmore—offer only equity funds.

Of course, a huge range of funds is not much use without good administration. Unfortunately, this is a difficult point to check on, although financial advisers should have a good idea of which groups cannot deliver. But you can at least find out if the fund deals on a daily or weekly basis—most are daily—how fast you can get your money back when you cash in, and whether you have the option of non-certificated shares.

This system allows you to deal on the telephone, instead of having to send in your certificate every time you want to switch, although you may still have to confirm your instructions in writing.

Convenience and cost-saving are the most emphasized advantages of umbrella funds, but it is no good saving money at the expense of performance, and administrative efficiency will not make up for investment management failure.

So take a good look at past performance figures before you buy. Many of the funds are too recent to have notched up any long-term performance as yet—and short-term figures (anything less than a year) tell you very little about a group's competence.

However, most of the groups running umbrella funds have been in the investment business for some time, possibly running other offshore or onshore funds, and you may be able to judge them on those records.

Pauline Skypala



### Changes in UK 'offshore' fund

Royal Trust Fund Management has reorganized the charges on its Prestige Portfolio Unit Trust, which is designed as a British-based equivalent of the offshore umbrella fund.

There is to be no initial charge—previously it was 3.5 per cent—but the annual management charge will remain at 1.5 per cent, a little higher than the annual charge levied on a conventional unit trust. The minimum investment level has been reduced from £2,500 to £500.

Prestige Portfolio is a route into 11 Royal Trust funds and switching between them is free. However, unlike switching between funds within an offshore umbrella there is a potential

capital gains tax liability with each switch within the Prestige Portfolio.

Royal Trust has managed to do away with the initial charges by trimming commission paid to intermediaries. This might, however, result in some investors being asked by intermediaries to pay a fee when the Prestige Portfolio is recommended. Elsewhere, however, the trend in unit-trust prices is still upwards. The latest group to announce its intention to put charges up is Hill Samuel, which is increasing the annual management fee on all trusts, except Gift and Fixed Interest Income and the Hill Samuel Portfolio, from between 0.75 per cent and 1.25 per cent to 1.5 per cent.

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Signatures \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**NATIONAL SAVINGS**







# FAMILY MONEY

## Consumers cash in by banking on societies

BANKING/2

Building societies are giving banks a run for their money in the race to win current account customers. And all the prizes, writes KIERON ROOT, are going to consumers

Viewers familiar with the long-running advertising campaign in which Leo McKern is continually teased by the range of a bank's services, should be aware that the tables have turned in relationships between banks and their customers.

The wider powers allowed to building societies, plus competition from American-style trust and savings companies, have given consumers a much wider choice of sources for banking and financial products. A prime benefit is the improvement in the range of current accounts.

Banks have dropped the iniquitous practise of charging people for balances below a certain amount, and gradually consumers are being offered the entirely reasonable option of earning interest on the money they keep in their current accounts.

Though competition between the high-street banks themselves has helped to improve the level of current account services, it is the building societies we have to thank for really radical reform in this area of financial services.

Newly armed with the power to offer unsecured loans, and thus the all-important overdraft facilities which are essential for a really flexible current account, they have marched boldly into banking territory. The Nationwide and the Abbey National both offer fully fledged current accounts now with the enormous advantage over the banks that interest is paid on balances. The Woolwich is set to launch a current account later this year.

Nationwide Anglia's FlexAccount and the Abbey National's current account both offer standard current account facilities, including a cheque book and guarantee card, standing orders, direct debits and an overdraft facility. Interest is paid on all funds in your account and there are no charges, other than interest payments, on overdrafts.

There are some slight differences between the two accounts. Abbey, for example, tends to set charges on overdrafts lower and deposit rates higher than Nationwide Anglia.

Conversely, the FlexAccount can be more convenient as the Nationwide Anglia is part of both building society ATM networks, Link and Matrix. Since the latter system now includes the Bank of Scotland, it gives a comprehensive national coverage.

The Abbey awards just one rate of interest regardless of the balances, whereas the Nationwide has three rates, rising with the size of balance.



There are areas where these accounts do not outdo the banks, such as overdrafts. Bank limits tend to be higher than the fairly strict £1,000 from Abbey National and £2,000 from Nationwide Anglia. And whereas most of the banks now have automatic overdraft facilities which allow customers to dip in and out of the red without going cap in hand to the manager each time, the building societies expect their customers to ask permission. The rates they charge for overdrafts reflect this.

At the Nationwide Anglia you will be charged 34.4 per cent for an unauthorised overdraft, and 23.1 per cent for one arranged in advance. At the Abbey the figures are 29.8 per cent and 19.5 per cent respectively.

At first glance these rates seem to make the building society accounts potentially more expensive for the regular

from building societies so far. But others are edging in the same direction. Most societies now offer some sort of account designed primarily for managing money rather than saving it, although guarantee cards and overdraft facilities are by no means standard equipment.

Though the Abbey is already a member of the cheque-clearing system founded by the banks and the Nationwide is set to become one, an expensive move which not all societies want to follow, others have been content to offer limited current account services in conjunction with a bank.

The Alliance and Leicester, for example, has such an account operated in conjunction with the Bank of Scotland, called BankSave Plus. This is a complex arrangement which allows money paid into a share account with the society to be withdrawn

cash which allow easy access to cash through automatic teller machines (ATMs), and bill-payment services.

Those who keep a tight rein on their finances and do not normally need an overdraft, may be able to get by with one of these accounts. This is more likely to be the case if they also have a credit card, which can substitute for cash or cheque book at restaurants, shops, cinemas, services stations and the like.

Banks have begun to respond to the challenge laid down by the building societies although they have not yet gone as far as to pay interest on balances in their basic current accounts.

In May 1987 Midland launched its Vector current account which pays interest on balances but the catch is a £120 a year management charge, albeit in return for an automatic overdraft of up to £1,000, interest free under £250.

Other banks are tinkering with their high-interest cheque accounts. These "hicas", as they are known, pay interest while at the same time providing the usual current account facilities but they have been aimed at individuals who could keep a large balance in their accounts, £2,500 being a typical minimum.

Recently, for example, the National Westminster brought the minimum balance on its Special Reserve account down to £500 from £2,000.

It is interesting that Britain's newest bank, HFC (formerly HFC Trust & Savings) entered the market this April with a current account that pays interest on balances over £250. Another part of HFC's strategy is to develop the idea of branches set out in an informal way and no need to make an appointment to see the manager.

This is in part a response to the public perception of banks as unapproachable places compared with building societies.

The launch of the building society accounts have not come without some tears. The Nationwide was flooded with applications when it unveiled FlexAccount last year - there are now more than half a million accounts held - so much so that there were delays getting cheque books out.

### BEWARE TUG-OF-POUNDS BATTLES

If you decide to move your current account, you will need to take care to ensure that you do not move all your eggs out of one basket before having another one ready to put them in. Competition between banks and building societies is so fierce that tug-of-war style battles have erupted in the past few months when customers have announced to their banks that they want to move to a building society. Some people have found that their banks have been deliberately uncooperative, hoping to deter their would-be deserters.

Also, you will probably have to wait a week or two for a new cheque guarantee card. It is best to make sure that the new account is up and running and that you have your new guarantee card before closing the old account.

Care also needs to be taken over the transferring of standing orders and direct debits. You will need to check that old orders have been cancelled, to avoid being debited twice.

overdraft user, than a bank. But Building Society Choice magazine has concluded that it is hard to lose with these newest building society accounts.

Soon after FlexAccount was launched it devised a model joint account, operated by a couple who deposit £1,000 a month and withdraw once a quarter - twice with permission. FlexAccount made them £13 a year compared with a typical bill of £80 a year in charges from Barclays, the Midland or National Westminster.

Lloyds came out more favourably because its charges are calculated monthly rather than quarterly.

The accounts opened by Nationwide and Abbey National are the most advanced

from a Bank of Scotland account. If the balance falls below £150, it is automatically topped up by a transfer from the share account. The service allows two standing orders and unlimited direct debits without charge, and customers can withdraw up to £50 a day from the bank or Alliance & Leicester branches, or any Thomas Cook travel shop.

But this account is not intended to work as an ordinary current account. The minimum opening balance is £500 and a pre-requisite for opening it is that the customer has an existing cheque account.

Further down the line are the savings accounts such as Alliance & Leicester's Cash Plus and the Halifax's Card-

be used as a debit card, with transactions taking three days to clear, as an ATM card and as a cheque guarantee card.

Yet there are signs that the good old current account will retain the affections of the British public for some time to come. A spokesman for the Nationwide Anglia says that while the society is committed to plastic money, when it carried out market research before launching the FlexAccount it found that "the vast majority of customers wanted a cheque book and cheque card. Paper-based transactions are still popular."

David Evans, assistant general manager (banking services) at Abbey National, said: "All the banks and financial institutions want a paperless system and we are all working towards it. But we are not there yet. Money transmission by cheque and guarantee card is the infrastructure we have in place. The payment of bills by ATM is the start of the plastic revolution, but paying for shopping by plastic card has not really arrived yet."

"I believe paper will be around a lot longer than some people imagine. A lot of people do not like taking money out of an ATM, for example."

The Halifax Building Society, which nailed its colours firmly to the plastic money mast some years ago with its Cardcash account, and more recently with the launch of its own Visa credit card, is now admitting that it may have to launch some kind of cheque account. Peter Wood, Halifax's divisional manager (savings and investments), said: "We see plastic money as the main money transmission vehicle. But the plastic revolution is not happening as soon as we thought it would. We are not ruling out the need to introduce a limited 'chequing' facility to support our plastic card."

# The only 3 Unit Trusts most investors should ever need

With over one thousand unit trusts available and more being launched each month, how do you know which to choose? In reality there are only three basic types of unit trust, and M&G has an outstandingly successful example of each:

Recovery Fund for capital growth, Dividend Fund for an increasing income, and Second General Fund for a balance between income and growth.

You should remember that new funds or funds which suffer a change of management could be more of a gamble than those which can point to a long and successful record. M&G's investment team has remained largely unchanged for many years, and our long-term performance record reflects this. Past performance cannot be a guarantee for the future.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up. This means that unit trusts are a long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

### Growth RECOVERY FUND

M&G Recovery Fund is probably the most successful unit trust ever launched and the table below shows just how well it has achieved its aim of capital growth. The Fund buys the shares of companies which have fallen on hard times. Losses must be expected when a company fails to recover but the effect of a turnaround can be dramatic.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G RECOVERY	FT ORDINARY INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
23 May '69	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000
1970	1,176	857	1,080
1975	2,640	1,112	1,468
1980	10,258	1,729	2,154
1985	27,080	4,847	3,240
31 AUG '88	53,784	6,862	3,931*

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). M&G Recovery figures are all realisation values. An investment of £1,000 in M&G Recovery Fund on 23 May 1969 would have grown to £53,784 by 31 August 1988 with net income reinvested. \*Estimated.

FURTHER INFORMATION: On 31 August 1988 offered prices and estimated gross current yields were: Recovery 532.1p 17.4p 3.73% 6.54% Dividend 542.9p 17.13p 5.18% 6.55% SECOND 939.2p 195.2p 3.38% 6.10%

The prices are calculated as at 9.15 am each business day. Prices and yields appear daily in the Financial Times. The spread is the difference between the "offer" price (at which you buy units) and the "bid" price (at which you sell). We have a discretion to vary the pricing basis of the units and also the unit with a range, calculated in accordance with statutory regulations. An annual charge of 5% is included in the offered price. An annual charge of up to 1% of each fund's value - currently 1% for Recovery and Second General and 1.5% for Dividend - plus VAT is deducted from gross income. Income for Accumulation units is reinvested to increase their value and for Income units it is distributed net of basic rate tax on the following dates:

	Recovery	Dividend	SECOND
Distributions	20 Feb 15 Jan 15 Feb 20 Aug 15 July 15 Aug		
Applications required by	23 Dec '88 18 Nov '88 9 Dec '88		
Next distribution on	20 Feb '89 15 Jan '89 15 Feb '89		

Capital gains tax 1988/89. An individual's first £45,000 of realised capital gains will be exempt from tax. Gains in excess of £45,000 will be added to the individual's other income and taxed at the rates of tax applicable. Gains arising before 31 March 1982 are not now subject to capital gains tax and gains since 31 March 1982 are subject to indexation relief. You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for purchase or sale will be due for settlement by the date shown on the contract note. The Trustee for Dividend and Recovery Funds is Bank Trust Co. Limited and for SECOND is Lloyds Bank Plc. The Funds are all wide-range investments and are authorised under the Financial Services Act 1986.

### Income DIVIDEND FUND

If you need income which will grow over the years M&G Dividend Fund could be your ideal investment. The Fund invests in a wide range of ordinary shares and aims to provide above average and increasing income from higher yielding shares.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY
6 May '64	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000
1965	440	438	1,020	1,000
1970	46	49	1,076	1,000
1975	83	72	1,630	1,000
1980	166	103	2,428	1,000
1985	228	87	6,516	1,000
31 AUG '88	368	65*	10,244	1,000

NOTES: All income figures shown are net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). M&G Dividend figures are all realisation values. £1,000 invested in M&G Dividend Fund income on 6 May 1964 would have grown to £10,244 by 31 August 1988 with net income reinvested. \*Estimated.

### Balanced SECOND GENERAL

M&G Second General Trust Fund aims for consistent growth of both capital and income and has a 32-year performance record which is second to none. It has a wide spread of shares mainly in British companies and expected yield in line with the FT Actuaries All-Share Index.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G SECOND	FT ORDINARY INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
5 June '56	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000
1960	1,952	2,008	1,167
1965	2,132	2,623	1,397
1970	4,648	3,054	1,712
1975	7,984	3,962	2,366
1980	19,540	6,160	3,476
1985	54,600	17,624	5,229
31 AUG '88	89,660	23,732	6,344*

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). M&G Second General figures are all realisation values. An investment of £1,000 in M&G Second General on 5 June 1956 would have grown to £89,660 by 31 August 1988 with net income reinvested. \*Estimated.

Scheme Particulars will be sent with your contract note. However, if you would like the Scheme Particulars before investing, or the latest fund reports, you can obtain them free of charge from: M&G Securities Limited, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB. Tel: (0245) 266266.

### INVESTMENT FROM £1,000

To: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, M&G HOUSE, VICTORIA ROAD, CHELMSFORD CM1 1FB. Please invest the sum(s) indicated below in the Fund(s) of my choice (minimum investment in each Fund: £1,000) in ACCUMULATION/INCOME units (delete as applicable) or Accumulation units will be issued for Recovery and Second General and Income units will be issued for Dividend at the price ruling on receipt of this application. DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY.

A contract note will be sent to you stating exactly how much you owe and the settlement date. Your certificate will follow shortly in entering into the contract with M&G you will not have any right to cancel the contract under the Financial Services (Cancellation) Rules 1988.

RECOVERY (Net £1,000)	£ -00
DIVIDEND (Net £1,000)	£ -00
SECOND (Net £1,000)	£ -00

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER OF M&G AND LLOYDS, MEMBER OF IFA.

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### THE M&G GROUP

# TAKE THE WORRY OUT OF WHEN TO INVEST WITH M&G'S UNIT TRUST SAVINGS PLAN

If you had chosen fifteen years ago to save £25 a month in a building society, and had left the interest to accumulate, by 1st August 1988 your total outlay of £4,500 would have built up to £8,590. On the other hand, if you had chosen to save the same amount each month in M&G SECOND GENERAL Trust Fund, you would have built up an investment worth £27,055, an extra £18,465.

You can start an M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan with as little as £25. By saving a regular amount you take the worry out of when to invest and can make fluctuations in the stockmarket work to your advantage because more units are bought when their price is low than when it is high.

Unit trusts are an excellent method of investing in the various stockmarkets of the world, and are ideal for regular investment over the longer term. They are not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

### PERFORMANCE FIGURES TO 1 AUG 1988

£25 A MONTH	5 YEARS (from 1 August 1983)	10 YEARS (from 1 August 1978)	15 YEARS (from 1 August 1973)
Amount paid in	1,500	3,000	4,500
M&G Recovery	2,868	10,668	40,753
M&G Dividend	2,624	10,737	30,753
M&G SECOND	2,467	9,598	27,055
Building Society	1,824	4,571	8,590

All performance figures include income reinvested net of basic rate tax. The figures for the M&G Funds are all realisation values. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). You should remember that past performance is no guarantee for the future.

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BLACK CAPITALS, PLEASE

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SURNAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ POST CODE \_\_\_\_\_

YOUNG PERSON'S ORDER DO NOT DETACH FROM APPLICATION FORM

TO: \_\_\_\_\_ FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Bank \_\_\_\_\_ Personal Bank \_\_\_\_\_ See your cheque book for details

Please pay to National Westminster Bank Plc, 191 Molesworth Street, Chelmsford CM2 0LN. (Branch Code 60-05-46) Account No. 55713270 for the credit of M&G Securities Limited (SAVINGS PLAN ACCOUNT), quoting the following Reference (LEAVE BLANK) \_\_\_\_\_ the sum of £ \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_ and continue to pay that amount on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of each month until further order in writing from me, and debit my account with you from time to time with such payments.

FROM (SURNAME) \_\_\_\_\_ AND INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

I WISH TO SUBSCRIBE £ \_\_\_\_\_ (min £25) each month to the M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan and I enclose a cheque (made payable to M&G Securities Limited) for my first subscription of £ \_\_\_\_\_ (you may wish to start your plan with a lump sum).

Your Savings Plan subscriptions go into Accumulation units of the Fund you choose at the price ruling on receipt of payment and net income is automatically reinvested. All the Funds are wide-range investments and are authorised under the Financial Services Act 1986. Detailed information on Recovery, Dividend and SECOND General is given above. The Rules of the Plan, Scheme Particulars, and the latest annual and half-yearly reports on these funds can be obtained, free of charge, from M&G's Customer Services Department at the address below. The only charges are those you normally pay with unit trusts - 5% included in the initial price of units and up to 1% annually for management. There are no extra charges for this Savings Plan. You can vary the amount you pay and you are free to cash in your accumulated investment, or part of it, at any time without penalty. The securities in a unit trust are held in safe custody by the Trustee (one of the major banks). You can follow the progress of your plan by looking up the price of units and the current yield in the Financial Times or other leading newspapers. You buy units at the "offer" price and sell at the "bid" price.

SAVINGS PLANS FOR CHILDREN The minimum age for the Unit Trust Savings Plan is 14, but accounts for younger children can be opened in the name of an adult and designated with the child's full name.

I wish my subscriptions to be invested in the Fund circled.

M&G RECOVERY  
M&G DIVIDEND  
M&G SECOND

The units will be registered in the name of M&G Securities Limited and held for your account under the rules of the plan. If the Savings Plan account is being opened for the benefit of a child, please fill in here the full name of the child.

The operation of your account will be subject to the Rules of the Plan.

I understand that further subscriptions can be made at any time (minimum £25) and that I can cash my money on any business day without penalty at the bid price ruling.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Member of M&G and Lloyds, Member of IFA.

Registered in England No 90776 Registered Office: M&G Securities Ltd, Three Quays, Town Hall, London EC3N 6QP. This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

### THE M&G GROUP

# The plastic revolution struggles before the mighty cheque book

Despite the popularity of the current account, and the scramble to improve the range of services it offers, some pundits continue to predict that the cheque book will soon be a dinosaur, replaced by multi-purpose plastic cards.

But plastic money did not launch the inroads most people expected when Barclays Bank announced the launch of Britain's first credit card in 1966.

Admittedly, ATM cards have really taken off, particularly among the young people, in the last few years. At the end of 1987 for example there were approaching 28 million ATM cards in use, compared with less than 14 million five years ago. And about 11.4 million access cards and 13.1 million Visa cards are in operation.

But the ultimate objective in plastic money is EriPos, electronic funds transfer at the point of sale, an electronic payment system which enables funds to be transferred electronically (without the need for paper cheques or credit card vouchers) from an individual's personal account to the retailer's account.

Here financial institutions are moving much more slowly than they have been able to with the launch of ATMs and credit cards. Banks and other financial institutions have been trying to implement a national EriPos system since the early-1970s, but with limited success. The four leading clearing banks plus another 10 financial institutions, are all members of EriPos UK, set up in 1986 under the wings of AFAPS. EriPos UK was set up to develop a national service so customers could be issued a debit card by whichever bank they belonged to and use it in any retail outlet in the country. The intention was for all cards to bear a common logo.

But competition has resulted in the big four clearing banks doing their own

thing, although for the record EriPos UK says each had its blessing to do so. An EriPos spokesman, Alan Jamieson, explains that it was felt that allowing the banks to develop their own systems was a good way of bringing practical experience to EriPos. "But," he added, "it has always been the understanding that any terminals installed in retailing outlets by individual banks would be replaced when the national system comes into operation, unless of course, they can be upgraded."

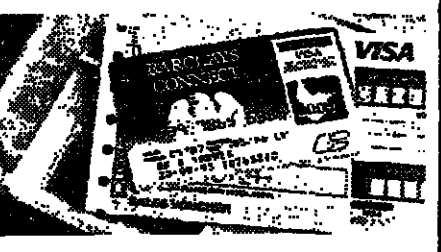
EriPos is to launch a pilot scheme in Edinburgh, Leeds and Southampton by the middle of next year. Barclays meanwhile has launched an automatic debit card - Connect. Similar schemes from other banks are in the pipeline. A

About 60 per cent of Britons now have cheque books, according to Banking Information Service figures. HAZEL SPINK reports

Barclays spokesman said: "A national EriPos system is one of those things which is always a year to two away. But we are not challenging EriPos in any way. The Connect card could be made part of a national system."

Connect, like other debit cards being planned, is something of a halfway house between a cheque payment system and truly automatic debiting. It still uses vouchers, similar to those in a credit card transaction, and payments have been designed to take three days to clear because it is thought that people are used to the three days' grace they getting with a cheque account.

In a joint venture Midland, National Westminster and the Royal Bank of Scotland plan to launch a debit card called Switch in October. Lloyds is gradually introducing a card which can





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## FAMILY MONEY

### Lessons in fee-paying

#### PRIVATE SCHOOLS

As the new school year begins, KIERON ROOT considers the financial options open to parents who want to educate their children privately



Play-time for children, pay-time for parents: the cost of private education is rising yet so is its popularity

Private education is increasing in popularity. There are well over 560,000 children in private education in Britain and numbers for the academic year 1987-88 were seven per cent up on 1986-87. Unfortunately, the costs of using private education are increasing even more rapidly, by around 10 per cent over the same period, according to the Independent Schools Information Service (Istis). Increases of five to 10 per cent are expected this year.

A couple intending to send their offspring to median-range boarding schools from the ages of five to 18 will have to find more than £50,000 a child at today's prices, apart from the fees rises over the 13 years.

A thriving industry has grown up to tell parents how to provide for their children's education. Several life-assurance companies, banks and a growing band of specialist brokers offer school fees "plans" designed to secure sufficient funds to pay for education without ruining family finances. There is little mystique about them. Whatever the variations, all aim to provide fees out of future income or capital growth. The traditional method of planning for fees from income is some form of regular savings plan. Usually this takes the form of a series of endowment assurance policies, normally on a with-profits basis, so that one policy matures each year that a child is in private education. It is usually suggested that such policies be written in trust so that a guaranteed sum is available if the parents die.

This is a highly effective method of planning, provided parents start saving far enough in advance, in most cases, at least five years before schooling starts. Higher-rate taxpayers may have an extra income tax liability if they cash in before 7½ years.

Advisers will offer projections to show how much should be invested

each month to cover fees in their entirety, but it is unlikely many families will be able to put away all that is needed, especially if more than one child is involved. Even when such policies mature, more money may still be needed.

This is part of the reason for a move to greater use of equity-based investments in school fees planning. Unit-linked endowments offer greater scope for capital growth than the with-profit variety, and direct unit trust and investment trusts even more so. Another method that has received much publicity recently is investment in a series of personal equity plans because of the tax advantages of PEPs.

The great drawback with all the preceding is that, being linked to a greater or lesser degree to the stockmarket, there is an element of risk. Your unit trust or PEP may make more than enough to cover a year's fees if conditions are right, but if markets are down when fees are due, your investments will still need topping up.

This highlights the fact that school fees planning from income is just like planning for any other future expected event such as retirement. Cautious investors may do just as well investing in National Savings or building society accounts. At least two building

societies, the Newcastle and the Frome Selwood have accounts specifically tailored to school fees planning.

All the methods described here have the advantage that they do not have to be used for school fees. If private education is deemed no longer necessary, the proceeds can be used for other purposes. For parents certain their children will attend a particular school, an educational trust may be the answer. These incur no tax liability for the investor as they have charitable status. This makes them particularly attractive since the demise, in this year's Budget, of the deed of covenant, which enabled relatives other than parents to reclaim income tax on educational gifts.

These trusts normally arrange for the purchase of an annuity to provide a regular income, for the period of the child's education. In some cases, the trusts are set up by individual schools effectively tying the pupil to that school. These are known as "covenant position payment schemes" and often include a discount on total fees where these are paid sometime in advance (occasionally at birth).

Should the child not meet required academic standards, such fees are often transferable or refundable.

Alternatively, parents can pay into educational trust schemes operated by

a number of institutions that are not tied to any particular school. These include insurers Royal Life and Equitable Life, Save & Prosper and specialist advisers the School Fees Insurance Agency. Investors should consider a number of schemes because the returns are linked to annuity rates and vary considerably.

Even these solutions, however, also require some degree of planning to be effective. The options for those who need to meet immediate fees, and lack enough ready capital, are limited to the most expensive method, borrowing. Bank loans or loanbacks on life assurance or pension policies are possible avenues, but an increasingly popular method since the growth in property prices, is to use the equity built up in the family home.

Rather than re-mortgaging your house or trading down to a cheaper home, several lenders will now advance a loan against that part which you actually own, which can be drawn down to meet fees as required. The typical formula is 30 per cent of value, less outstanding mortgage, up to a normal maximum of 2½ times joint salary.

Loans should be considered an emergency measure. They are no substitute for long-term planning.

### How to build up your house-buying hopes

An Englishman's home is his castle, they say, but with the steep rise in house prices over the last few years, more and more people are finding that they cannot afford even a down payment on a garden wall let alone the rest of the brick and mortar, writes Hilary Doling.

A recent survey by the Association of District Councils found that half of those who wanted to buy a house in the South-East of England simply could not afford to do so.

With first-time buyers in London and the South expected to find a starting mortgage of about £50,000 and mortgage rates due to rise in October, an increasing number is looking for low-cost ways to get on the housing ladder.

Housing associations and some building societies are continuing to devise schemes to help the less well-off buyer. One of these is shared ownership. This scheme allows you to buy a home in stages by purchasing a share of the property and renting the remainder from the developer, usually a housing association or development corporation.

Potential home owners can buy as little as 25 per cent at the outset, although these days they are more likely to be offered 50 or 75 per cent. A normal mortgage is taken out on this percentage. At any time in the future you can increase your stake by buying a further portion, a process known as staircasing, until you own the property outright.

At 23, Angela West was living at home with her parents. She says that if it had not been for a share ownership scheme run by the Orbit Housing

Association, she'd still be there. Angela worked for the Halifax Building Society in Bethnal Green, east London, and heard of a scheme the society was financing for Orbit in the Docklands.

Demand for shared equity homes is now enormous.

The key to Angela's successful application was that she was already on the Tower Hamlets council housing list.

Now she is the 75 per cent owner of a studio flat on the East Quay development in Wapping. With her five per cent staff mortgage from the Halifax she pays about £130 a month, plus £34 a month in rent.

However those interested in shared ownership should remember that the rent they pay will be in line with current charges on similar properties and is thus likely to rise over the years. Note too that though you are renting part of the property, you will be expected to pay for maintenance and all outgoings as if you were a full owner-occupier from the outset.

One problem with shared ownership schemes is that though they are developed to help first-time or other buyers in need, the very fact that buyers are allowed to staircase up and sell the house at the full price on the open market takes it out of the reach of the next generation of first-time buyers. Because of this, some schemes no longer allow staircasing. You may also have to sell the property to a buyer approved by the original developer.

For example the Nationwide Anglia are helping finance a project for the Sutton Hastoe

housing Association at Cerne Abbas in Dorset where buyers are being offered 50 per cent of the £50,000 houses. The Nationwide says: "The part ownership homes are fixed at 50 per cent of their value for all time, so that they will always remain within the means of local families and not move upmarket to become rural retirement homes."

The residents will pay about £148 a month mortgage and around £48 in rent. When the owner wants to move they sell their share on at the market rate.

One other form of equity sharing which is becoming more popular is the cost sale scheme. This involves no rental, instead houses are provided for sale at cost - properties are built and sold on a non-profit making basis.

In order that first time buyers continue to benefit, a proportion of any increase in value on the subsequent sale is retained by the developer. A buyer will never be able to purchase this portion but, again, they can sell their portion on at market value.

At the Royal Mint site in London's Docklands the Metropolitan Housing Trust is building 100 flats and maisonettes. Ten of the flats are to be sold on the open market at £100,000 to £120,000. Profits will go towards further reducing the sale price of the rest. These are expected to sell at about £55,000 and the trust's equity stake will represent the difference between the market value and the sale price.

For more information on equity sharing contact your local council's housing department, a local building society or housing association



Angela West in her new London home: if it had not been for share ownership, she'd still be living with her parents

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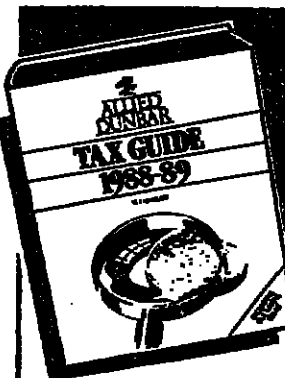
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# INSIDE STORY

## Making of a high street miracle

When Paternoster Stores took over F. W. Woolworth in 1982, the old retailing giant had fallen on hard times. Geoffrey Mulcahy, now chief executive of Woolworth Holdings, tells how he and his colleagues achieved the turnaround.

Photograph by Phil Sayer

At 9.45am on November 15, 1982, four men, directors of Paternoster Stores, met in the coffee bar at London's Marylebone Station. They had an appointment up the road 15 minutes later. It was a momentous occasion. The meeting was to be their first with the old board of F. W. Woolworth, the retailing colossus which had just been bought out by our new company.

Paternoster Stores had been formed in September that year. It was a novel and bold initiative that had been mooted by a number of leading figures in the City and in the property business, and brought to fruition by Victor Blank, then head of corporate finance of Charterhouse (address: Paternoster Square). They had spotted the possibility of turning round the high street giant which had been underperforming for years after decades of glorious success.

F. W. Woolworth had lost its way in the retailing scene of the 1970s, and had become a misery stock for its ever hopeful shareholders. Yet it had one great strength: its huge property portfolio. It could never sink with the buoyancy provided by such assets, whose value was twice the company's capitalization. But it was doing the next best thing to sinking — it was floundering badly.

F. W. Woolworth was big by any standard. In terms of its sales space, it was twice the size of Sainsbury's today. It had become so on a mass-merchandizing formula, forged in the United States, which had flourished particularly well in Britain. For 50 years it had been brilliantly successful, playing a unique role in the life and affections of the nation; but from the late 1950s things gradually began to go wrong. The first visible sign of trouble came in 1968, when it lost its place as Britain's leading retailer and Marks & Spencer overhauled it in both sales and profits.

During the 1970s its burgeoning problems really began to get worse. The problems were of its own making. A formula that had served so well for so long had become enshrined. When confronted by change, the ability to respond was subverted by an internally bred management and burdensome bureaucracy, which only understood one way of doing things. And change was the order of the day in the 1970s: store concepts were changing rapidly, and customer expectations with them.

Towards the end of the old regime the board of F. W. Woolworth did make a decision that had the promise of success, and one that was to have great significance later on in a way that could not have been imagined then: the board, encouraged by its US parent, decided in 1981 to buy the fledgling B&Q operation for £17 million. Such was the scepticism of the shareholders and markets by that time that the move was criticized — the cost was too high, B&Q was irrelevant to the company's problems anyway, and so on.

It was against this background of disenchantment that the Paternoster Stores offer was judged. The British F. W. Woolworth was 52 per cent owned by its US counterpart; the remainder was owned by institutions and private shareholders. Paternoster Stores paid £310 million for the company, whose equity weakness was revealed

by the split: £100 million capital and £210 million debt. It was the first highly leveraged buyout in Britain.

The Paternoster deal was backed by 30 institutions. But perhaps because of its novelty or because the turnaround task was thought to be impossible, or because the new board was not well endowed with specialist retailers, not many people gave it much of a chance. What we took over was, frankly, a chaotic management. We found a filing cabinet full of recovery strategies recommending dramatic courses of action. It was a case of management suffering from a severe bout of "analysis paralysis".

The US parent, with its 52 per cent shareholding, had had the legal control to do something about the problems, but, beset by its own troubles, it did not have the credibility with British management to dictate solutions. With no apparent objectives, staff morale was at rock bottom.

There were 50,000 staff in the chain, which consisted of nearly 1,000 stores ranging from 2,000 square feet to 70,000 square feet in locations whose quality varied tremendously. Some were in prime high street sites, others in dying suburban strips and edge-of-town sites. The warehouses and stockrooms were crammed with £500 million-worth of stock. The stores sold over 50,000 lines through 62 departments, dealt with 8,000 suppliers and processed over six million invoices averaging under £10 in value. The average customer spent just £1.

The first task was obvious and urgent. Without delay, a new top management team was assembled. Paternoster Stores became Woolworth Holdings, and thus a totally new board took over from day one. The next priority was to institute a firm financial hold on the business and start creating order out of the chaos. In the following two to three months, a number of critical decisions were made. At the top level, we established the group structure. Woolworth Holdings became the new parent, with F. W. Woolworth, B&Q and Woolworth Properties as operating subsidiaries.

After a thorough review of B&Q, we decided to redeploy capital to support its rapid growth and seize the out-of-town DIY market, whose potential its management had already identified. Systems were already in place to keep B&Q completely separate from F. W. Woolworth. This was a crucial strategy. B&Q's profit potential was enormous and immediate; its success could buy us the time we needed to deal with the more problematical F. W. Woolworth chain. Thus the acquisition of B&Q by the old regime turned out to be fortunate for us. The property company, Woolworth Properties, was set up to manage the huge property asset. By charging market rents to F. W. Woolworth, we were able to ascertain where our profits were coming from — retailing or property.

As for F. W. Woolworth itself, comprehensive reorganization was required, and just as important, a total change in the attitude of staff. We established firm financial controls. We set about reducing stocks and cutting costs. We reorganized the management structure, eliminating the layer upon layer of regional and area management

and shortening lines of communication.

We opened up lines of communication with employees and trade unions. They knew only too well that the company had problems and were not surprised that they did, however, feel the distinct change in management style when we started communicating with them about our problems. We made it clear to them that we were not in the business of asset-stripping, but were determined on a turnaround of the business which would require their understanding and positive response. That is what they gave us.

During 1983, we went about the major task of developing a formula for trading in the F. W. Woolworth stores that would increase their profitability substantially. We decided on a number of strategies that would be implemented together at once. Thus we strengthened and improved further financial controls by introducing budgeting and reporting procedures in order to accelerate both cost reductions and give us detailed sales, margin and stock information. None

of these systems had previously existed.

At the same time, we recruited a new management team to give us professionals in all key positions. F. W. Woolworth's main management problem was that virtually everybody there had never worked anywhere else. They knew only one creed, the gospel according to Woolworth, and that had been discredited. There was little or no depth of professional management in systems, distribution, finance or even, believe it or not, marketing.

Throughout this period — the first two years — all these things were being directed by a very small team of three or four people, of whom I was one. We had to keep our shareholders informed of our progress, and after an all too brief honeymoon, we had to live under constant pressure for tangible results, as well as the continuing scepticism that had characterized the reaction to the original buyout. They were long days and nights.

There was a great deal to do before we could claim any kind of turnaround. So we embarked on a new phase of development in our second full year. The main ingredi-

ents of this were the continued development of B&Q; the addition of a new company, Comet, to the group; the rationalization of Woolworth Properties' store portfolio; and, most important of all, the development of a new, marketing-led strategy for F. W. Woolworth.

Comet had proved itself profitable in merchandizing home electronics and electrical goods, and had built up a reputation for value among its customers. We saw its potential as an out-of-town operation in a market that was set to expand, and as a complement to our other retail operations and expertise.

As for F. W. Woolworth, the chain had been trying to be all things to all people for too long — a Jack-of-all-trades and definitely master of none. There was no easily identifiable part of the business whose closure or sale would benefit the other parts automatically. What we had to do was to take fundamental decisions affecting every aspect of the business. During 1984, we began the process of focusing down through the chain. We went even further the following year.

At the same time, we set up

a special project called "Week-end and General" to test an even more radical concept, comprising a strengthened merchandise range, retrained staff and a new store design, culminating in what was a new offer to the customer. It meant eliminating a large part of the existing range and radically improving the new areas in which we chose to concentrate. The project was directed by specialists outside the day-to-day operation and was under my personal control. It was the start of the new "Woolworths". We dropped the cumbersome "F. W. Woolworth" as a signal that changes in the stores were fundamental.

Now a full blown "Operation Focus" was instituted. It meant concentrating in areas where Woolworths had established strengths, and developing real authority in them through broader ranges, better quality and brighter stores. The six areas of focus in which Woolworths is a major player in the market and has full credibility are Kids (we are one of Britain's biggest toy shops), Gifts and Sweets (we are a European leader of confectionary outlets), Entertainment (we are a market

leader in recorded entertainment), Home and Garden (we are a clear leader in the high street), Kitchens (a traditional Woolworths strength) and Looks (an opportunity to capitalize on our young female shoppers).

Thus we now have six market-led departments compared with the 62 we inherited, 20,000 lines compared with 50,000 and 1,000 key suppliers compared with 8,000. We have totally withdrawn from grocery, adult clothes, electrical appliances and a number of other areas — in all a sacrifice of some £250 million, or 25 per cent of our high street turnover. But the cuts have made way for our focus departments to expand.

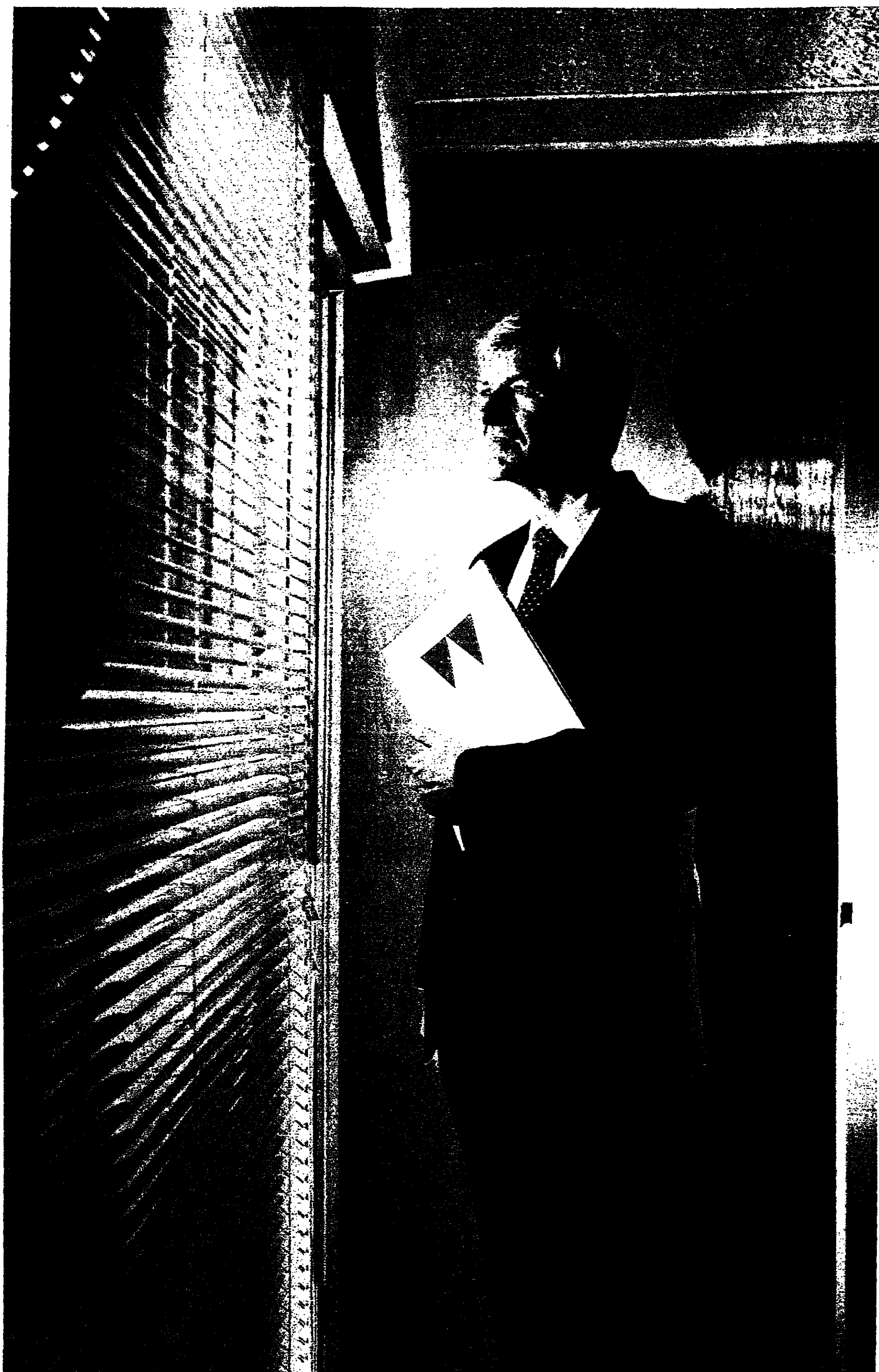
The Woolworths turnaround has been huge by any standards. It was perhaps Dixon's £1.8 billion bid in 1986 that tested its reality. Our successful defence was, and remains, the largest to date in Britain.

Since then the group has continued its rapid progress. B&Q has continued to expand and is developing other concepts alongside its DIY stores. The acquisition of the Charlie Browns Autocentres has created an opportunity in the car

servicing and accessories market. Comet has been repositioned as an out-of-town store chain with new merchandise ranges and live-lie stores. Woolworths has accelerated its focus programme and opened its special Kidstores for 2 to 13-year-olds. Woolworth Properties is working with Rosehaugh, a leading developer, to maximize the potential of the property assets. Another company, Superdrug, has also joined the group, giving it a market niche in the drugstore supermarket format pioneered by the company.

What we have achieved has been due to three prime ingredients: the ability to be clinically objective in analysing and taking decisions, the willingness to take radical decisions and to implement them vigorously and the understanding of the importance of communications — with staff, with customers, with shareholders.

● Extracted from Turnaround: How 20 Well Known Companies Came Back From The Brink, edited by Rebecca Nelson and David Chuterback and published by Mercury Business Books, price £12.95.



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# Our price always seems to bring on a cold sweat.



Brow glistening, you empty your wallet into the barman's hand.

Does a pint of Stella really cost that much, you wonder?

It does indeed.

How else could we possibly afford the swingeing sums demanded of us to bag the choicest European barley?

Or pay the king's ransom necessary to secure the pick of Czech hops?

(The Saaz variety and only the most fragrant female hops at that.)

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Bernard Levin on Bayreuth . . . Bryan Appleyard in Kenya . . . Jonathan Meades on restaurants . . . David Sinclair on rock



# Playing by the tribal rules

From football gangs to the Yuppies, modern man's behaviour conforms to ancient patterns. In the first extract from their new book on today's tribes, Desmond Morris and Peter Marsh examine the transition from the stone axe to the Filofax

Man is a tribal animal. To ignore it or deny it — as so many priests and politicians do — is to court disaster. The tribal qualities of the human species colour almost every aspect of our social lives. If we were ever to lose them, it would mean that we had mutated into another species altogether.

The word "tribe" conjures up images of "primitive" societies, near-naked warriors and mystical ceremonies. Tribalism, to most of us, represents an earlier stage in the evolution of the human race — something which came to an end with the advent of "civilization". Yet tribalism has never disappeared. Because we are essentially social animals, we have a drive to establish particular forms of affiliation with other people. Identification with others of our own nationality is not in itself enough; it is too abstract, and it lacks the sense of true bonding which can be established only in the context of smaller groups.

The modern relics of ancient tribalism are everywhere around us: in our committees, our juries, our feasts and our squads, in our councils, our governments, our board members, our clubs; in our secret societies, our protest groups, our childhood gangs. As our national units become increasingly large, so we create social units on a more human scale. Even in the anonymous, agreed-of our major cities, people band together to create modern tribes which share the basic features of traditional ones.

drive it off with combined threats. In this behaviour we see the seeds of the later development of tribalism.

Large insects, young mammals, small birds, lizards and eggs were always favoured supplements to the regular vegetable diet, providing valuable proteins, minerals and vitamins. But occasionally some of the larger males would manage to catch and kill a more impressive mammal, such as a young fawn. We

**Abstract targets have replaced real ones, just as real targets replaced the tribesmen's animal prey**

know, from studies of today's baboons and chimpanzees, that when this happens an entirely new feeding pattern appears: food-sharing. For monkeys this has always been a minor factor of their daily social lives. It is a rarity, but the fact that it occurs at all is highly significant, for it marks the origins of that most crucial human characteristic — active cooperation.

This meat-eating element of the social lives of our primate ancestors had a profound effect on our social origin. In order to feast on bigger and better prey, groups of the strongest males had to set off on organized expeditions. Only by helping each other in an intelligent and planned manner were they able to defeat the larger animals and so provide a feast of high-protein flesh. This momentous step allowed man the hunter to evolve out of his monkey ancestry. It led to a whole host of dramatic changes.

We became bigger and stronger. We also became bipedal, standing erect on our two legs, which allowed us to

carry weapons. At the end of the successful hunt we were able to transport the prey to a safe place and share it out with the females and young, another major step towards the modern condition.

This state of affairs lasted for about 50,000 generations. Then came a further dramatic stage in our social development: the Agricultural Revolution. That occurred only 500 generations ago. It started with a new feeding pattern — food-storing rather than food-sharing. With food-storing came farming and the improvement of crops. The wild animals that came to prey on these new, improved food-stuffs were caught and penned. Domestication of animals became common practice, with the result that hunting was no longer necessary. Keeping and breeding the animals in captivity, then slaughtering them when they were needed for food, became rapidly established about 10,000 years ago. The ease with which this made food available gave rise to a new human commodity: leisure.

Right from the beginning of the Neolithic Period, this new-found leisure was given over to one special activity: hunting. The practical need to hunt for food was gone. But the psychological need remained. The adult males found it hard to give up hunting, and so they invented sport-hunting. The prey was now frequently inedible, but that did not matter. The chase was the thing, man's being.

Later, when cities started to spring up, urban males found themselves in a quandary. Crowded together in huge numbers, they had nowhere to hunt. In the countryside the chase across fields and through woods, often on horseback, could still continue (and still does, of course). But the urbanites needed something. The answer came in the form of the arena.

All across the ancient city world, huge stadia were constructed where animals could be attacked and killed — a new kind of "display hunt", without the chase. From the Colosseum of ancient Rome to the bull-rings of modern Spain, this corrupted form of hunting created new heroes

and attracted vast crowds. Today, by contrast, there is another kind of hunter: the one who has abandoned the physical aspects of the hunt and transformed it into a purely symbolic activity. The business tribe hunts a contract; the academic tribe hunts a new theory; the engineering tribe hunts a new invention; the literary tribe hunts a new masterpiece. Each in its own way follows the ancient imperative: only the nature of the targets has been changed. The new tribesmen talk about their "aims", but these "aims" have become their ambitions. Abstract targets have replaced real ones, just as real targets replaced animal prey in the gradual development of the human tribesmen.

Anthropologists define a tribe as a collection of groups of people who share patterns of speech, basic cultural characteristics and, in the traditional sense, a common territory. The most important feature, however, is that members of a tribe feel that they have more in common with each other than with neighbouring groups.

Tribal feelings can be used constructively or destructively. Given half a chance they will be employed to good effect, but if the tribal urges of a particular group are frustrated they are likely to find an

**Young males form tribes and attack the culture which has attempted to cut them off from their inheritance**

alternative and often damaging outlet. They cannot be suppressed because they are too basic. If the ruling authorities in any society deny the expression of tribalism, the young males will not simply remain calm and passive. Instead, they will form un-

official tribes and attack the culture which has attempted to cut them off from their primeval inheritance.

This process can be seen at work whenever gangs of alienated young males gather. They form gangs of muggers, thugs and hooligans, and then express all their pent-up tribal feelings against the police, the military or any other manifestation of conformist authority.

The excitement is the same — the planning and the tactics, the strategies and the schemes, the risks and skin-tingling dangers, the escapades and the endless story-telling about those escapades. The whole tribal scene is recreated out of the chaos of their oppressed lives.

The same age-old urge lies behind tribal games, whether the groups concerned are establishment-backed or rebels: fox-hunters or football hooligans, commandos or criminals, trades unionists or terrorists, Boy Scouts or Hell's Angels. All obey basically the same tribal rules.

Without the adventurous risk-taking, active co-operation and organizational restraint that operates within each of these groups, we would not have been able to build our civilizations. On the dark side, we would also have avoided war and all the other forms of aggressive disruption, from the most savage forms of terrorism to the mildest of group protests.

But we can never live without it as long as we remain human. So it is better that we learn to live with this amazing potential that has, in a mere 10,000 years, carried us from the Stone Age to the Space Age. Learning to live with it implies learning to recognize it, in all its manifestations.

Anthropologists' study of the tribal customs, folklore, rituals and ceremonies of more primitive peoples can help us identify manifestations of the tribal urge in the modern societies which surround us. A number of ob-

vious and important features are common to both. Among them is one social element known as "age grouping" or "age sets".

In every society, traditional or modern, age is used as an indicator of the roles which a person is expected to play. In Western cultures, for example,

we restrict certain activities, such as the consumption of liquor, to those over a certain age. Becoming legally an adult

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is a matter of attaining a given chronological status. Subsequently we pass through various age-related status positions — middle-aged, elderly, retired, and so on. At each point we tend to form bonds and affiliations more readily with other members of the particular age set we have reached, than with members of other age sets. Teenagers bond with other teenagers; the elderly find new opportunities for social ties in the clubs and institutions which cater for them.

In traditional societies the role of age sets is even more clearly defined. Among the Nuer of East Africa the rel-

portantly, it provides for the development of distinct "communities" of people at all stages in their lives.

Age sets are, of course, non-voluntary groupings. We do not choose our date of birth, and therefore our bondings to others of the same age are a matter of chance. In small tribal units this is often sufficient. Each individual can feel that he or she is a full and active member of the culture as a whole through the age set and needs little else as a key in order to carve out a social identity.

In larger, more complex societies, however, in which individuals drift away from their age set fellows and the national unit is too large to promote strong feelings of direct involvement, other voluntary groupings will clearly be needed. Traces of this can already be found in larger traditional cultures. For example, discrete warrior groupings existed within North American Indian tribes. The Cheyenne had five, each with its own leader, dress and rituals, and loyalties to the organisation cut across both kinship and age-set ties.

The growth of urbanization and industrialization since the turn of the century has led to the rapid development of highly impersonal environments in which a sense of neighbourhood can be difficult to achieve. As a response, the natural human drive for affiliation has spawned a vast range of voluntary groups. To a large extent these have replaced the multipurpose groupings based on kinship and clan allegiances which still flourish in rural and less industrialized settings. Their ostensible functions may be as diverse as pigeon racing or the organization of mock military battles, but all provide for social bonding and are most frequently established as antidotes to the impersonal nature of modern urban settings.

active position of any male is determined solely by the age group to which he belongs. For his entire life every Nuer man remains a member of the group of other males with whom he was initiated into the tribe. His commitments to his equals are clearly defined, as are his obligations to his elders, which he will always be expected to meet.

The effect of the age-set system is quite profound. It creates a distinct set of loyalties which are quite independent of family ties. It gives young and old clearly defined roles. It causes young men to act together in important ways, such as in defence of their country, while leaving most of the decision-making to their elders. Most im-

portantly, it provides for the development of distinct "communities" of people at all stages in their lives.

COLORFICI



Style warriors and bush rangers: the drive for social bonding is evident at all times and places in human history

But the increasing role of women in the development of modern tribes, from the Greenham Common women, suggests that while genetic factors and deep aspects of heritage most certainly influence the ways in which we organize our societies, they do not necessarily dictate or restrict the social potential of either men or women. The universal human need for people to realize themselves as individuals through collective unity with like-minded persons is not restricted to one half of our species.

In massive modern urban developments, the quest for identity and a sense of belonging is pursued against a background of alienation. In a world which often disowns them, young people, in particular, turn increasingly to alternative youth cultures in which they can be *somebody* — a quest for identity which, coupled by the anger engendered by disadvantage, is expressed by the aggression of the youth gang. For some, the only way of fully understanding themselves is to establish whom they are against.

While a sense of injustice



IMPACT PHOTOS

work and the professions. But it was only with the emergence of brash, stylish and energetic upstart groups such as the Yuppies that their distinctive tribal entity was reinforced.

While such labelling is usually quite trivial and ephemeral, it reflects the need for people to define themselves as distinct sub-groups of the population. The writer Peter York's description of the Sloane Rangers, with their green wellington boots, their waxed jackets, their Golf GTIs and their social lives pursued in wine bars, was a caricature which became much more of a reality as young people in that stratum of society identified themselves with the image and adopted both the Sloane style and the attitudes that went with it.

The reality of such groupings is revealed not only in the proliferation of labels — Yuppies and Sloanes have been followed by Dinkies, Drabbies, Swells and others — but more directly in new trends in market-research techniques. Major companies have to identify particular segments of the population and target their advertising accordingly. But traditional market groupings based on social class and income level have now been found to be insufficiently sensitive or sophisticated. The newer method, called "values and lifestyles analysis", aims at identifying the social tribes to which people belong.

This commercial realization of patterns of collective bonding is the best evidence of tribalism in modern societies. We may joke about the trendy middle-class groupings, or prefer to think of ourselves as free, independent spirits, owing allegiance to no group in particular. But most of us find it hard to escape categorization.

By selecting a particular jacket or dress, people make a quite specific statement about themselves. They declare themselves as individuals, but they simultaneously indicate the extent to which they belong with other sets of individuals. Everyday clothes are, in a very real sense, distinctive uniforms conveying to other people important messages about the identity of the wearer.

Nowhere is this more true than in the formal world of business and high finance. The traditional English bowler hat of the "city gent" may now be in decline, but his dark suit, highly polished shoes, sober shirt and school tie are still unmistakable emblems. He is an elder of the City tribe — a tribe which travels daily to the modern equivalent of the hunting grounds, the financial institutions in the city's hallowed Square Mile. His rank as an elder is discernible because of the contrast between his style of dress and that of his younger rivals.

The new breed of British wheeler-dealers declare their niche in the new computerized stock market by wearing clothes which are at once in keeping with their sober and responsible business while at the same time reflecting their youthful affluence and reputation for high living. The suits are lighter and more

## Yuppies rely on their talents and acumen rather than inherited wealth and the old school tie

narrowly tailored, the shoes are by Gucci, and the ties are silk. In all, the apparel nicely matches the Porsches and BMWs which are the other emblems of this modern tribe.

Identifiable uniforms are equally in evidence in other professions. Within the academic tribes of most modern societies, great efforts are made to acquire just the right degree of affected scruffiness. To dress smartly and expensively is to be in breach of one of the unwritten tribal rules, which says that you cannot be a serious intellectual if you wear a Pierre Cardin suit. A tweed jacket, preferably with leather elbow patches, is much more likely to be in line. Even in the United States, where academics are less ashamed of making money than in other countries, professors of both sexes are usually ill at ease if dressed to a level of fashionable elegance which their financial peers would take for granted. The same sort of inverted relationship between success and standard of dress is noticeable in some of the professions, notably the world of publishing.

Businessmen and academics, of course, belong to rather diffuse tribes, which is why we might sometimes fail to recognize them immediately from their style of dress alone. Where modern tribal groups are more closely knit, the uniformity of dress among the members is more striking. Observe the straw boaters and striped blazers at Henley Regatta: the ceremonial regalia of the privileged "oarsman

caste" is every bit as much an emblem of power and authority as the symbolic dress of an African chieftain.

All of us rely on others for our sense of self and identity. Where the scale of our culture denies us a true sense of belonging, we conspire to scale things down — to create units in which we can be human. Fundamental to every tribe or human society is their need for a sense of "place" — a feeling of living in an environment which has boundaries and identity.

Concern with territoriality predates modern society by several millennia. Homes in both the Greek and Roman cultures were separated by at least three feet 3 ft the space in between belonged not to any individual but to the Gods. Now the urban gangs of major US cities perpetuate an ancient pagan and Christian tradition when they spray graffiti onto walls in order to indicate the limits of "their" territory.

It is useful to distinguish between two basic types of human territory — primary and secondary territories.

Primary territories belong exclusively to an individual or

## The straw boaters are as much an emblem of power as an African chieftain's dress

a small group. The family home is a classic example of such a territory: people from without the family do not enter unless specifically invited. Within the home, even further degrees of privacy and isolation may be available in individual rooms; for example, a teenager's bedroom may be forbidden territory to other family members. The personal nature of both houses and rooms is clearly evident in the way in which they are individually styled and decorated.

Primary territories meet a universal need. On their home territories, people tend to display dominance over others, while in someone else's primary space they show appropriate signs of deference and submission. In all cultures, traditional or modern, individuals and families construct separate dwellings not just to meet the requirements of shelter and protection but also to create their own territorial integrity.

Secondary territories are less exclusive places. Nevertheless, they are of great importance because they facilitate patterns of regular collective interaction. In modern societies, secondary territories may take the form of parks, squares, malls, neighbourhood bars and cafes, and that very special British institution, the pub. In most cases, such territories invoke a sense of belonging and part-ownership in those people who use the places regularly. There may even be unofficial rules concerning special seats for individuals or special privileges afforded to those of certain rank and status.

This kind of territory is found all over the world. In tribal villages we find not only huts and dwellings, but shared spaces in which social interaction between the occupants takes place on a regular and sustained basis.

There is, however, one territorial feature unique to modern societies: because it runs counter to the natural pattern of tribal living, it has created numerous problems. This special kind of territory consists of the entrance areas, hallways and corridors of apartment blocks.

The urban planner Oscar Newman stressed the importance of these areas, linking primary territory to the public world. Where blocks are designed in such a way that the secondary areas are not felt to be within the jurisdiction of the occupants, vandalism and other crimes are commonplace. Entrances are often occupied by vagrants and alcoholics. Elevators are subject to criminal damage.

Newman suggested that proper control of these secondary territories can be established only when four or five families share a single entrance; in such circumstances, people get to know each other and take a strong interest in potential threats to their shared area.

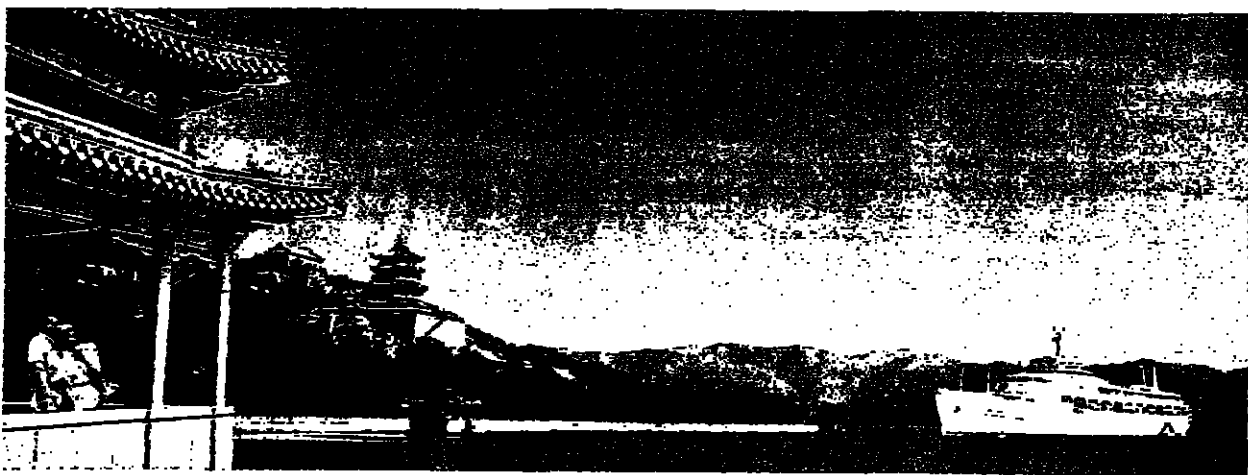
What Newman proposed is, of course, a return to living in a way which more closely resembles those of traditional cultures. If we create units that are not based on a recognizably human scale, we inevitably experience all the problems engendered by dehumanization. The alienation expressed in the inner-city areas of modern nations likewise serves to warn us that we have exceeded the limits set by our tribal heritage.

Next week: Rites and symbols  
● Extracted from *Tribes* by Desmond Morris and Peter Marsh, to be published by Pyramid on October 21, price £14.95.

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# Wagner, twaddle and mustard

Despite his bewilderment and exasperation at the antics of the Wagner worshippers, Bernard Levin returns to Bayreuth where he finds hope stealing out of the darkness

Many years ago, I predicted that one day, Wagner's laundry-lists would be found. They take the form of a vast sub-Shakespearean drama combining the themes of *Hamlet* and *Macbeth* (and a good deal else), which Wagner wrote between the ages of 13 and 15. Well, many precocious schoolboys scribble romantic rubbish as adolescence begins, but only in the case of Wagner is it taken seriously 160 years later.

Taken seriously? The programme-book for *The Mastersingers* devotes 167 pages to it; it starts with an essay by Isolde Veiter, adorned with 48 footnotes and couched in that ghastly jargon which passes for learning in Wagner studies, and ends with the entire text of the work (*sic* and all), which is called *Leubald*. It is to be published by Schott's in the autumn, and a critical edition will be included in volume 31 of Wagner's *Collected Works*. (I fought my way right through *Leubald*; I put it like that because the play is, quite literally, unreadable.)

Let me dwell a little longer on those programme-books. There is one for each opera of the season, and they are without question the most beautifully, lavishly and scrupulously produced theatrical programmes in the world. Unfortunately, the esoteric twaddle of which they largely consist makes me wish, every time, that either Richard Wagner or I (but not both) had never been born. This year, the torment is made worse by the inclusion of 37 opinions of *The Ring* by writers from all over the world, almost all of them weird nonentities, culminating in Marion Bradley, who says she was *thrilled* to be asked, because she never thought her opinion would be worth anything. Oh gosh, girlie, it isn't.

In other words, the sickening tide of the cult of Richard Wagner, which began in his lifetime, still flows unabated — indeed, more strongly than ever. There are, of course, detailed studies of the works and lives of his few equals: the literature on Beethoven, Mozart, Schubert, Bach, is very substantial. But the Wagner library is much larger than all of those together.

Why is it that the one of the Wagner-mania alone is inexhaustible, and the efforts of the miners likewise? Alas, there is an answer, and it covers those who cannot break free of his spell as well as those who hate him and every bar of his music. It is that he alone in all genius knows all our most terrible secrets, and forces us to know ourselves as we are — or, worse — as we might be. Wagner is Honorary Psychiatrist Extraordinary to the art of music, and you will find him in the third scene of *Das Rheingold*, under the name of Alberich, wielding a whip over the workers in his power (including his brother) as they dig deeper and deeper to tear out of the innocent earth the truth about human beings. He does it by dealing impartially and implacably with the most sublime of humanity's attributes — love, heroism, nobility, truth — and also the darkest of humanity's secrets — hate, treachery, incest, murder. And what moves both those who are his slaves and those who are his declared enemies is his iron insistence on the most dreadful truth of all — that good and evil are equally available to all, entwined like the rope of the Norms in *Götterdämmerung*. Stealing myself, I stood in front of the bookstall and began to count the books by and about him: I ran, shrieking for a sausage and a beer, when I got to 87. My dissertation will be called *Sausages and Phallic Symbolism in the Works of Wagner*.

There is, I fear, some galumphingly obvious sexual symbolism in Harry Kupfer's

production; Siegfried waggles the sword about between his legs, and Brünnhilde launches a violent lesbian assault on her sister Walküre (my dear, those Valkyries whatever, *new!*). The cast spend most of their time running about or crawling — nobody is allowed to walk or stand still; Siegfried wears a boiler suit, which I suppose is reasonable since in Act One he is living in an abandoned boiler; the gods all carry transparent suitcases, which are all empty. (Yes, Mr Kupfer, we do get the point; can we eat our buns now?)

*The Ride of the Valkyries* is accompanied by the progress of a multitude of hideously mummified figures (I never knew that Valhalla was supposed to be a leprosarium). Siegfried and Brünnhilde live in a coal cellar, the Norms spin their rope among a forest of television aerials planted at the entrance to a multi-storey car-park; as for the Family Hunting, their rough hut was clearly furnished at pre-Conran Heal's, with a marked Japanese influence in the pitched roof and the wall-paper. Only the Porsche is missing.

It is not all like that; Kupfer, though a wretchedly limited man, is an ingenious one, and some things came off splendidly; the use of lasers was exciting, the gaudies and catwalks of Nibelheim worked well, even in British Telecom yellow; the giants were a triumph — fully 14 feet high, and moving on invisible wheels — at one point, Froh had to skip nimbly out of harm's way. ("Cause of death: run over by mechanized giant.") And the Woodbird appeared in a dangerously uncanonical but most striking form, though a world-renowned authority on songbirds whom I met in the interval assured me that the whole scene was based on a fallacy; apparently they do not sing while flying, only when they come to rest. (Presumably the production will be panned in the *Ornithological Quarterly*.)

But in the end, it won't do, if only because Kupfer, whenever faced with a real difficulty, runs away from it. Take those giants; because the men inside them can do nothing but sing, they cannot pick up the gold, let alone quarrel over it, so there is no visible reason for Father to murder his brother. There is no attempt to deal with the problem — the people out there are only the audience, and what do they matter? So the production gets progressively lazier and more contemptuous, till it peters out in the clichés of the day before yesterday, which Kupfer doubtless thinks the last word in modernity; where he comes from, it probably is.

He comes from East Germany. Now the physical brutality of Siegfried towards Mime in Kupfer's production is more marked than any I have ever seen; perhaps he has a brother in the Vopos, who



The author's voice: Bernard Levin at Bayreuth, planning to call his dissertation *Sausages and Phallic Symbolism in the Works of Wagner*, in honour of Wagnerian jargon

showed him how it is done. Very well; but if there is one opera-house in the world where it should not be permitted for a production to have a character representing a Master Race seize a member of a race he is shown as hating and despising and make to thrust him into a furnace, then that opera-house is Bayreuth. Millions of a despised race went into furnaces by the order of the Wagner family's most loved and honoured regular patron; if Kupfer, next year, has not removed this filthy gesture from his production, Wolfgang, who will remember the honoured guest, no doubt with mixed feelings, as Onkel Adolf, had better do so for him. (Jeremy Isaacs told me that when the scene took place, the man sitting behind him laughed.)

And yet, musically, this came very close to the *Ring* of my dreams. Barenboim, whose first *Ring* it is, has cleared out the old guard almost completely; I cannot remember a year with so many leading roles taken by singers new to Bayreuth — with, I am happy to say, the Brits to the fore: John Tomlinson was a Wotan of formidable power and beauty of tone, Graham Clark a deadly, ice-cold Loge and an amazingly acrobatic and mellifluous Mime; Linda Finnie a Fricka more human and intimate than most (and she threw in a Norm and a Valkyrie as well).

More to the point, Siegfried Jerusalem is the conquering hero of the world's opera-houses, as well as Brünnhilde, have been waiting patiently for; he is so far singing only the *Siegfried* Siegfried, but when he has mastered the *Götterdämmerung* one as well, the role is his wherever he wants to sing it — the voice is beautiful, ringing and equal to all the tasks Wagner set it. (But he may be called to higher things. He fielded his bouquet — they are flung from the end of the front row — with a sensational skill; it crossed in front of his body shin-high, and he had the light in his eyes as he dived for a brilliant left-handed catch. Bayreuth is damned; this man is needed in the slips for the MCC.) There is also a sensational new Korean Hagen, Philip Kang, and an equally exciting new Alberich, Günter von Kannen, with a voice almost too rich and fine for the character's evil. (Brünnhilde? Hm.) As for the conductor, Barenboim had been criticized for uncertain tempi; by the time I got there they had largely settled down, and his loving, rich but restrained vision reminded me of the years with Kempe at Covent Garden, and none the worse for that.

At Bayreuth, the mustard for those sausages is provided in a bucket — a large, green plastic bucket. Well, it is not the only thing that comes by the bucketful in Wagner's opera-house. I begin to think it is time for me to pack up the entire box of tricks, cut the puppet-master's strings, and free myself from lifelong bondage. For great genius that

he was, perhaps the most original figure in all art, he was nevertheless a man of his time, which was the second half of the 19th century.

What do I want all that do I want with the horrible *Stabreim*, that never was talked by land or by sea, why do I tolerate the entire Wagnerian system of the *leitmotif* (I think it was Saint-Saëns who said it was like meeting a lunatic at a party who keeps giving you his visiting-card), why do I put up with the gibberish, the reverence, the interminable hours in Stygian darkness while the characters review the plot and ask each

other idiotic riddles? (There is only one laugh in the *Ring*; it is unintentional, and you have to wait from Tuesday to Friday for it. It is also not very funny.)

There is damnable darkness in these works; what in God's name am I doing, wallowing where Hitler wallowed? Even the audience demonstrates the triumph of the Manichee; did you know that booing, by however few, can always be heard over cheering, by however many? Why don't I just retire from Wagner, and spend the rest of my life with Mozart and

Schubert, who show me the way to a real heaven, not that gimcrack Valhalla, and with Beethoven, who tells me that for the brave there is heaven even on earth?

Because I stayed on for *The Mastersingers* (another success for the Brits — Alan Ople as a marvellously bureaucratic Beckmesser), and the glorious human goodness of that tremendous score not only soothed my soul to quiet, but told me that my ravings about the *Ring* will dissolve instantly every time, as soon as that E flat steals out into the darkness. And they so will; because for all the fear and cruelty and beastliness it con-

tains, and all the beauty and passion and excitement, as well as all the intolerable demands it makes of us over those 16 hours, it is among the world's profoundest and most certainly eternal masterpieces, forever challenging us to confront and absorb it. And because, finally, it tells us, in sounds utterly different from anything else in music, that those creatures from the depths of the human psyche are in us all, and that unless we face that truth, as Siegfried faces the fire, we shall never heal the split that rives us, and be whole. Believe me, when I say I shall never come to Bayreuth again, I lie.

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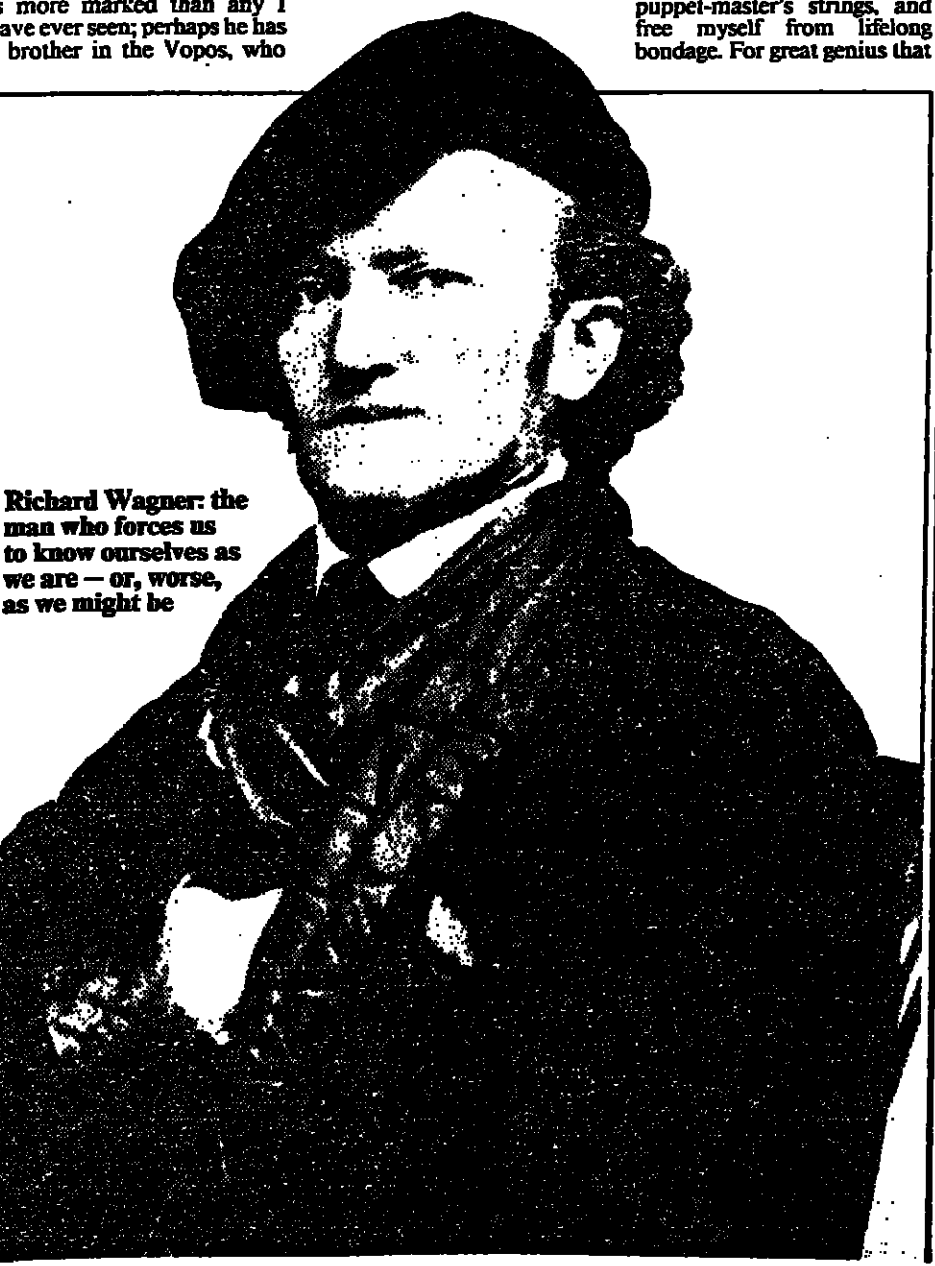
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Richard Wagner: the man who forces us to know ourselves as we are — or, worse, as we might be



## EATING OUT

## Bucks ducks in invasion shock!

A fast moving chef has settled in Aylesbury where, writes Jonathan Meades, he has opened his own restaurant and serves strikingly assertive cuisine

The chef Jeremy Blake O'Connor turns up in this column once every six or so months. A year and a half ago he was at Inter-lude in Covent Garden, last winter he was at Cannizzaro House in Wimbledon, now he is to be found in Aylesbury where he has his own place and presumably intends to stay put for longer than his habitual term.

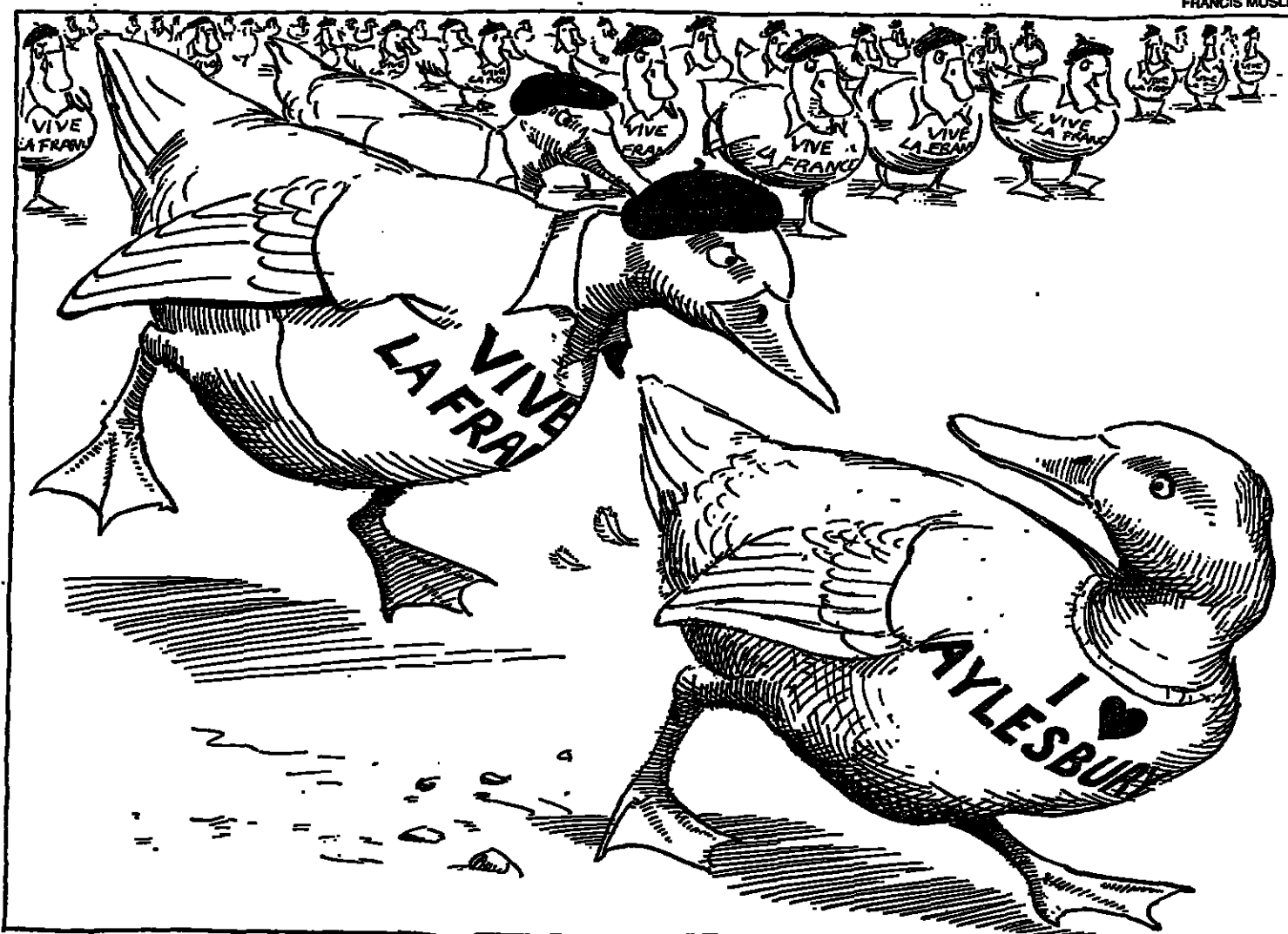
Whether he does largely depends on whether Aylesbury hails him or buries him; if it has any sense it will do the former, but you can never tell. This is not the most handsome of country towns and is recently more associated with violence, the mob-bobbery of the affluent south which the Home Secretary has taken out a patent on, than with any sort of gastronomy, although they are probably closer to it than are the famous ducks which, I note, O'Connor makes a point of not serving. He is properly interested in quality rather than in loyalty to his latest locale, so his confit, which is accompanied by sliced rare breast, is of Challa's duck.

This dish, with its perfectly judged red wine sauce, is no more than good; everything else I tried at Pebbles was outstanding.

The place takes its name from the little lane it is in — jettied cottages of no doubt, the 16th century, a picturesquely off-white brick wall, a squat and much-restored church at the end. The scene is a Sunday painter's dream; it is also one of the rare bits of the town that has not been ruined by pedestrianization.

The dining rooms are beamed, light, fairly rustic in a corn dolly way. They are the sort of surroundings one has seen countless times before, and which tend to prestage vacuous gimmickry and preciousness. The only sign that something very different may be afoot is a collection of menus from the many places that O'Connor has worked in — these take up a lot of space.

Well, the cooking is not vacuously gimmicky, nor is it precious — but what is it? Refined is hardly the word; it is not particularly subtle, everything tastes of something, it is, indeed, almost alarmingly assertive, composed of loud flavours and of a palate that goes in for colours of considerable depth. When you arrive you get a complementary tea cup of "gaspacho",



a thick, garticky and oily emulsion with a little soured cream; it is very powerful, very delicious and it, rather than the room, is the signal of what's in store.

The first things in store are massively portioned starters. Sweetbreads and chunks of lobster are given two sauces, one of a saffron enhanced fish glaze which is great, the other of what may be clarified butter (ditto). The thymus is fried in batter and pepped up with a tiny dice of pepper and a hint of chilli. In the middle of the

plate you get a pyramid of noodles with caviar on top. The other starter was all asparagus; stems in a feuilleté, asparagus sauce, asparagus mousse; there were some chanterelles knocking around, too. The same dish was to be found last year at Le Poussin in the New Forest; the disparity between the two versions is a measure of the gulf between a good chef and a truly talented one; there it seemed an exercise in using up asparagus, here it was a rounded and varied whole. As I say the duck confit is good

but nothing more, while the other main course was a sumptuous *tour de force*. It was comprised of sweetbreads, pigeon breast and foie gras on piles of very meaty lentils. I suppose that it might be deprecated as a super-rich fry-up, but if so what a fry-up. The sauce was tremendous — very rich but not too sticky and the "garnishes" of sweet shallots and chanterelles (again) were superb; it was served with a salad in what looked like a chamber pot. The cheeses are spot on, the one sweet — a "soup" of various

fruits with three sorbets, including one of Amaretto — was first rate. Some improvements might be made to the long, but too French and too predictable, wine selection. There was absolutely nothing wrong with an '83 Chassagne Montrachet by Chenevot at £16.50 but it would be good to see more things of a similar quality and lower price. With two aperitifs and one digestif the bill for a tremendous meal was £81. Stick to the set menu and the house wine and you could just about get out for £30.

The journey from central London takes less than an hour.

The former owners of Pebbles now runs Cavaliers in Battersea which I wrote about a few months back. And the former inhabitant of those premises, Philip Britten, is now at a stage of this culinary merry-go-round called The Capital Hotel which used to have a dining room of the utmost oddness but now has one which is a superior example of 1980s Louise the Decorator. The problem with this room is it seems crowded, not just by there being, perhaps, one too many tables in it, but by the staff. Black ties, white aprons, black tails abound. Like army officers no two wear the same uniform.

Still they are all efficient in a rather superior way. The cooking is rather preferable to the horrible menu prose which describe it — do people go on courses to learn to write this guff? One dish in particular was sensational: crisply fried sweetbreads with a rich tomato and basil sauce cut with olives and — for the sake of no doubt of the sort of punter this place gets — foie gras. Despite the foie gras this was genuinely earthy and suggests that Britten is getting away from the Nico-esque repertoire he cooked in Battersea. Other dishes of note included a feuilleté of scallops with a cep butter sauce, duck with a nice wine sauce, foie gras terrine with a celeriac salad, chocolate marquis, a sort of armagnac ice cream.

The Capital is rightly reputed for its cellar — which contains such desirable items as a big, bold, golden Puligny Montrachet, Clos de la Garene '84 by Drouhin and a Corton-Pougets '72 by Jadot (£36 and £43 respectively). If you abuse these and drink Roederer Brut Premier throughout the meal, the bill will be about £112. If, however, you go at lunchtime and stick to the menu and something very cheap you might just escape for less than £50.

Pebbles, 1 Pebbles Lane, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire (0296 86622) ★★☆☆★ English spoken on the menu, French on the plate. Dinner £75, lunch £30. Open 12-2.15pm and 7-11pm Tues to Sat; 12-3pm Sun.

Capital Hotel Basil Street, London SW3 (01-589 5171) ★★☆☆★ Menu French. Notable wines. Dinner £100, lunch £48. Open 12.30-2.30pm and 6.30-10.30pm every day.

## CHESS

## Suba's stylish attack

A marvellous compliment to the enhanced status of British chess has been the defection last week of the Romanian Grandmaster Mihai Suba. Playing in the Lloyds Bank Tournament, Suba created national headlines when he announced his defection and his readiness henceforth to play for England in individual and team events.

Suba is a popular player with an attacking style. He will certainly be an ornament to our chess strength. More important though, is that this is the first occasion on which an East European Grandmaster has chosen the United Kingdom in which to defect. In the past, such acts have been carried out in Holland, Switzerland or the United States.

Suba has escaped from a regime which is becoming increasingly noted for the eccentricity and harshness of its leadership. We should be flattered that Suba has chosen our country as his haven and I was particularly pleased to note the generous support offered by the British Chess Federation, through one of its top officials, Stewart Reuben. Reuben's immediate reaction was to state that the BCF would welcome anybody and would offer genuine hospitality to anyone. Fine words, and I trust that Grandmaster Suba will never regret his decision to seek asylum on our shores.

Here is a sample of Suba's attractive brand of tactical ingenuity from the world champion qualifying tournament of 1982:

White: Mihai Suba; Black: Jan Timman. Interzonal, Las Palmas 1982, English Opening.

1 e4 e5 2 g3 Nf6 3 Bg2 d5 4 cxd5 Nxd5 5 Nf3 Nc6 6 d4 Qd6 7 Qd2 Qe7 8 Qc3 Qd6 9 Qd2 Qe7 10 Qc3 Qd6 11 Qd2 Qe7

Black has achieved a harmonious development and has no real problems. His strategy now will be to play for domination of the square d4 and ultimately to press against White's pawn on e2.

An inaccuracy which hampers the initiative to Black. White should try instead to intensify his Queen's side play with 12 Na4 Nxa4 13 Qxa4. He need not fear 12 Na4! e4? on account of 13 Nxb6 exb3 14 exb3 with advantage.

12... Na4 13 Bxd4 exb3 14 exb3 Na5 15 Qc2 c6 16 Nc5 Bc8 17 Qd2 Bb8 18 Rb2 g6 19 b4 Bb8 20 Rb1 Bg7 21 b5

White is becoming impatient but this advance adds to the weaknesses in his position.

21... Qe7 22 Nf4 axb3 23 Rxb3 Na4 24 Rxa4 Rxa4 25 Qc1 Be7

A serious error, the more so since the superior move 25...Ra7 would consolidate Black's advantage. The text permits Suba to display his main strength, tactical opportunism.

26 Rb7 Qe7 27 Bxg6 Qe7 28 Bxg6 Rxa3 29 Nf1 Ra1 30 Qf4 Qe7

The final blunder which permits the alert Suba to land another tactical blow, this time one of a devastating nature.

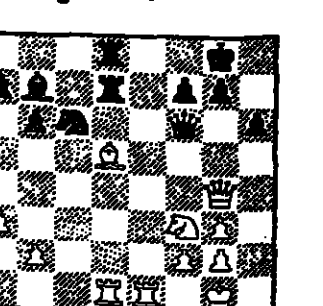
31 Rxf7+

The winning move.

31... Rxf7 32 Rxf7 Bf8 33 Qe6 Qd7 34 Rf8+ Rg7 35 Qxa3 Rxa3 36 Rb8 Ra2 37 Rxd4 Rxa2 38 Nf3 Rb6 41 dxe4 Kf6 42 e5 43 h4g5+ h4g5 44 Kf2 Black resigns

## WINNING MOVE

In the diagrammed position White evidently enjoys some initiative, but the pawn structure is symmetrical and Black threatens to equalize. White must strike quickly if he is to win. What is his winning move?



To enter The Times Winning Move Competition, send your answer on a postcard to The Times Winning Move Competition, The Times, 1 Victoria Street, London E1 6JL. The first three correct answers drawn on a Thursday next week will win a Times water-soluble personal chess computer. The winners' names together with the winning move will be printed in The Times next Saturday.

Solution to yesterday's position: White wins with 1 Nxe5+

Jeremy Flint Raymond Keene

## From the Carved Angel to the sign of the Golden Duck

This is a changing selection of restaurants visited in recent months but managements and standards may have changed. Stars — up to a maximum of 10 — are for cooking rather than swags and chandeliers. Dishes described are included to give an indication of the cooking. Prices quoted are for a three-course meal with drinks for two, and are determined according to the "When in Rome" principle: in the case of French places, aperitifs and a bottle of modest wine; tea in the case of oriental ones; beer or lassi in the case of Indian ones and so on. J.M.

## RECOMMENDED

**The Oak Room**  
La Meridiana, Piccadilly, London W1 (01-734 8000). ★★★★★

Fabulously opulent Edwardian baroque dining room with brilliant French cooking by David Chambers — a favourite of turbot and salmon with lobster sauce, bass with a moussé of foie gras and salmon, beef with luscious mushrooms and spritich. Rarely mistakes of either taste or technique. Finest of London's grand hotel restaurants and an unmitigated treat — if you are not paying, £120.

**La Basileide**  
50 Greek Street, London W1 (01-734 3300). ★★★★★

Nicholas Blacklock is probably the greatest ally that French provincial cooking has in

London. His pretty, rather formal, restaurant offers a monthly changing regional menu which frequently includes rare dishes — a pot of Chateaufort, for instance, containing heart, cassoulet, pork and prune dishes from the Loire. In addition, there are also two non-changing menus, one of dishes like duck confit and boudin noir, the other of more refined dishes such as a marvellous confit of sole and a delicious confit of sole and a selection of French regional wines and amagnacs, £45.

**Orse**  
27 Wellington Street, London WC2 (01-240 5289). ★★★★★

Fastidious basement done out to look like Milan or Turin of the early 1950s. Among the top four Italian places in London. Most dishes are of Piedmontese or Lombard provenance: sweetbreads with shallots, chicken with olives and tomatoes. It successfully combines rusticity with refinement. The attention to detail is great. Service is by male models. Interestingly enterprising Italian wines, £60.

**Burton's**  
71 High Street, Ealing, London W5 (01-840 3297). ★★★★★

Ealing's affluence has enabled it to succeed from London and join the Home Counties. A first floor dining room, approached through a flowery courtyard, is a bit testy in style, but the kitchen is a good one. Dishes such as venison with onion marmalade, smoked haddock mousse, duck with blackcurrant and fabulous chocolate sweets suggest that chef Joe Rainieri has real talent. £58.

**Simply Nico**  
48a Rochester Row, London SW1 (01-630 8061). ★★★★★

Simply the best cooking in central London. But there is more to it than that: Jonathan Fox is the city's most agreeable sommelier. Dinah Jane Laderis runs the front of house with real flair. And the laces look luxurious without resorting to opulence. Also the wine list is impressive and not greedily priced. What Nico Laderis has above the vast majority of top chefs is consistency. The salads are tremendous and so too are the highly aromatic, almost "cured" sauces which accompany meat and fish. Everything is done with a sort of largesse and generosity and with skill that is peerless. Portions tend to be vastness; one diner will be served cheese for four; vegetables taste like they have never tasted before. £30.

**Meridiana**  
169 Fulham Road, London SW3 (01-589 8815). ★★★★★

Ambrosial risotto, ravioli stuffed with chicken and sauced with walnuts and porcini, bass with lentils, raw beef with pureed lettuce — the most inventive Italian cooking in London served, sometimes quite gracefully, in premises are now simply pretty. £35.

**Providence**  
Gardleton Mill, Sway, Lymington, Hampshire (0500 582219). ★★★★★

The New Forest is full of restaurants that should be avoided. This is not among them. Jean Pierre Norn's cooking is

**DIRECTORY**  
authentically Provencal and quite outstanding. His mulet braised with fennel, pastis and star anise is delicious and so are such things as duck confit with braised chicory, quails stuffed with chicken and sweetbreads. The wines are imported specially for this place and are cheap. Indeed the whole place is a tremendous bargain, especially at lunch time. At dinner the costs are about £55.

**The Carved Angel**  
2 South Embankment, Dartmouth, Devon (08043 2485). ★★★★★

The cooking is Anglo-French in the best sense with Tuscan and Catalan accents. Early. Downstairs is a wine bar with a purr wine list and mitter-European cooking. Upstairs is a folksy restaurant that offers some very decent Polish cooking, including a pancake of apple with smoked salmon, outstanding kishka, coleslaw, lightly cured sausage. £25.

**Zamoyzki**  
85b Fleet Road, London NW3 (01-794 4792). ★★★★★

Downstairs is a wine bar with a purr wine list and mitter-European cooking. Upstairs is a folksy restaurant that offers some very decent Polish cooking, including a pancake of apple with smoked salmon, outstanding kishka, coleslaw, lightly cured sausage. £25.

**Wilson's**  
236 Blythe Road, London W14 (01-603 7267). ★★★★★

Austere decorated little neighbourhood restaurant whose Anglo-French cooking is of a standard associated with much more elevated joints. The dishes certainly don't sound that promising and certain of the combinations — like with goat cheese sauce, goose breast with quince jam — suggest a

desperate scrambling for novelty. But they, and many like them, work astonishingly well. Inadequate selection of wines, friendly service. £45

**Czech Club**  
74 West End Lane, London NW6 (01-228 0131). ★★★★★

Looks like a bed-sitter which has been turned into a restaurant. Hefty winter food well-prepared and served at knock-down prices: boiled beef with dumplings, roast duck with dumplings, dumplings with sprouts. Good Czech beer and fruit spirits. £25.

**Lowiczanka**  
238-246 King Street, London W6 (01-741 3225). ★★★★★

The restaurant of the Polish Social and Cultural Centre. A bit like an anonymous 1950s hotel in Lodz. The clientele is largely composed of Polish families. They are served by matronly ladies in "authentic" costume. The food is copious: ripe, stuffed cabbage, cured sausages, potato pancakes, sweet pancakes. The usual flavoured vodka and Tatra beer. £22

**The Blue Elephant**  
4 Fulham Broadway, London SW6 (01-385 6595). ★★★★★

Offshoot of Brussels' top Thai restaurant and the cookery is mediated by Belgian nous. Marvellous grilled scallops, fishcakes and satay owe more to Belgium than to Thailand. Good lamb with ginger and garlic, and beef with ginger and baby aubergines. The place is jungle-thick with plants and the service is by girls in martial uniform. Expensive wines. £60

**Daquise**  
20 Thurloe Street, London SW1 (01-589 6117). ★★★★★

Legendary Polish tea-room and restaurant that has been a home-from-home for generations of émigrés. Homely cooking at astonishingly low prices: borscht, chicken, pierogi, stuffed cabbage, herring with sour cream, rice cakes. Drink lemon tea or Tatra beer. £18.

**Golden Duck**  
6 Hollywood Road, London SW10 (01-352 3500/4458). ★★★★★

The first of the smart Peking/Szechuan restaurants that are now suburban norms, and still among the best. Crisp lamb breast, hot chicken, chicken, Szechuan duck, paper-wrapped chicken are all commendable. Urbane punters, urbane decor, serious wine list. £45.

**Kenbei**  
151 King's Cross Road, London WC1 (01-278 0619). ★★★★★

The frying in this little Japanese restaurant is not the kitchen's strong point. What the kitchen is good at is dishes which require no cooking, or those which the customer cooks at the table. In a hall at the back couples Japanese businessmen play mah jong and drink Chivas Regal. £50.

**Kitchen Yakitori**  
12 Lancashire Court, off Bond Street, London W1 (01-625 9594). ★★★★★

Cramped Japanese café whose yakitori (skewered meats) are good, but by no means the only attraction. It is probably the only place in Britain that serves eel livers, Sashimi and tempura are pretty good. £50.

**Kym's**  
70 Wilton Road, London SW1 (01-828 8931). ★★★★★

Flashily designed Szechuan and Hunanese whose fish dishes are of some interest: eel with garlic and ginger, jelly fish with sesame oil. £30.

## CROSSWORD

## CONCISE NO 1658

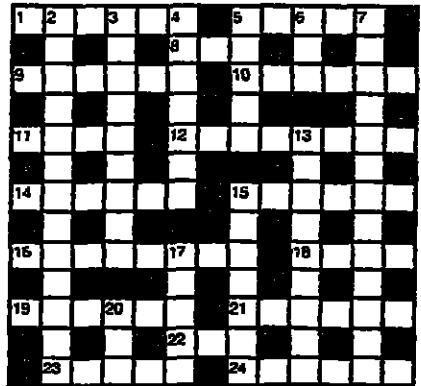
Prizes of the 1988 Collins Concise Dictionary will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, September 8. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, September 10.

## ACROSS

- 1 Human mind (6)
- 5 Police informer (5)
- 8 Spoil (3)
- 9 Spouse (6)
- 10 Set of clothing (6)
- 11 Cause downfall (4)
- 12 Rather (8)
- 14 Harbinger (6)
- 15 Medieval order (6)
- 16 Writing ability loss (6)
- 18 Fulful (4)
- 19 Military scientist (6)
- 21 Prussian capital (6)
- 22 Dice (3)
- 23 Small pie (5)
- 24 Small boat (6)

## DOWN

- 2 Breakaway fiction (8,5)
- 3 Thin sausage (9)
- 4 With leaves above water (7)
- 5 Horse attendant (5)
- 6 Knack (3)
- 7 Funicular (5)
- 8 Hunt assistant (7)
- 10 Cured (7)
- 11 Convenient (5)
- 20 Appropriate (3)



## SOLUTION TO NO 1657

ACROSS: 1 Misery 4 Census 9 Dormant 10 Roden 11 Thin 12 Crescent 14 Instep 15 Pagoda

DOWN: 1 Mad 2 Struts 3 Rear 5 Erucaea 6 Sidle 8 Shorthand 8 Stare 11 Think-tank

13 Delegate 16 Overdue 17 Daily 19 Drops 21 Burr 24 Yet

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

## BRIDGE

## Victims of a double squeeze

A novel feature of the much-trumpeted Epsom contest is a jaunty commentary attributed to Omar Sharif. Sharif, writing in the first person, imagines that he is watching the play at a particular table. Whether Sharif, who has so many claims on his time, wrote it or not, is immaterial; it made lively reading.

The analysis was less commendable. I will give two examples, not to underline that point, but because the hands contain several points of interest.

An early board posed a problem for declarer. Pairs. North-South Game. Dealer West.

South arrives in three no trumps after North has shown his majors. West leads the ♠4 and the defence take their four club tricks. Putting

pressure on declarer, West plays the ♠J. Should declarer break, or rely on the hearts breaking, with the added chance of a spade heart squeeze? The imaginary declarer rejected the hearts, but unworthily received "Sharif's" sympathy.

The squeeze to be relevant can only be against East; otherwise the finesse of the ♠Q would succeed. But if East has the ♠K and four hearts, why should West gratuitously promote the ♠10 to menace rank by sacrificing his ♠J? It is good defence to play a spade, forcing declarer to guess, but the correct card to play on this occasion is the nipe of spades.

A later hand provided an example of a well established defensive principle. North-South Game, Dealer West.

South bid an immediate three no trumps in response to his partner's one diamond opening. West has an awkward lead. His choice of the ♠6 proved a lucky selection. East won with the ♠K and the defence took their four spade tricks, while dummy's ♠A and a diamond. Declarer won the club switch with dummy's ♠K, and came to hand with the ♠K. He then played the ♠Q covered by the ♠K and the ♠A. But the ♠J revealed the bad news when East discarded a heart. Declarer

West and East were less pleased. "Hold it," Sharif says; "there was nothing you could do." On the diamonds East had to discard two hearts in order to retain his clubs. Then when declarer cashed his clubs, West was squeezed in the red suits. "You have been the victim of a non-simultaneous double squeeze."

It seems a pity to spoil a good story. But West forgot a valuable maxim. Refrain from cashing the fourth defensive trick against three no trumps until you know where the fifth is coming from.

If West switches to a heart after three rounds of spades, declarer will be unable to exert any pressure.

Jeremy Flint

Raymond Keene



Chess  
Cuba's  
stylish  
attack

THE TIMES COOK

# If there's smoke there's sizzle

All the benefits of an outdoor barbecue are at your fingertips, writes Frances Bissell, but available indoors with a French grill.

**M**y craving for the occasional barbecue or charcoal grill has almost been satisfied by a new addition to my kitchen, a French grill. It is a solid, rectangular slab of cast iron which fits neatly across half my gas hob. About 18in x 9in (46cm x 23cm), the grill has raised diagonal ridges with a channel along two sides. After two or three minutes' pre-heating, the temperature is raised, and the food comes into direct contact with the source of heat, so that all the flavour is sealed in.

There is smoke and sizzle but best of all are the appetizing smells, the characteristic charred criss-cross on the fish fillets and lamb cutlets, and the pleasure of biting into juicy morsels of food crisp on the outside with that faint hint of smokiness that you get with barbecued food.

Pitta bread and crumpets are marvellous heated through on the grill, and you can even make toast on it, although it will not be the uniform golden brown that we have come to expect from the toaster or conventional grill. When not in use, the grill stands behind the hob against the wall. It does have its drawbacks, however. Because it is so solid, and thus stable, it is also heavy — something you will notice when you carry it over to the sink to wash it.

Some things are more suitable than others for this method of cooking. Fish fillets and cutlets are better than whole fish. Steaks, noisettes of lamb and chicken breasts cook more evenly than, for example, chicken drumsticks. Sausages and homemade hamburgers are marvellous cooked on it.



DIANA LEADBETTER

- 3 cloves garlic
- 1½lb/680g lean minced lamb
- 1 tablespoon ground cumin
- ½ tablespoon ground coriander
- 1 teaspoon ground cardamom
- 1 tablespoon ground pepper
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped parsley or coriander

Peel and finely chop the onion and garlic, and mix with the minced lamb. Mix in the rest of the ingredients, and fry a tiny piece to check whether the seasoning is to your liking. Add more spices if it needs it. Wet your hands and form the mixture into balls or sausage shapes, which you can thread on to skewers or satay sticks. Heat the grill, and when hot, grill the lamb kebabs until done as you like them. The length of time required will also depend on how thickly the meat is packed around the skewers or rolled into balls.

Finally after all the spice, here is a simple cool pudding that can be prepared in advance.

- Chilled rum custard pots Serves 4 to 6
- ½ pint/430ml single cream
- 3 tablespoons dark muscovado
- 3 tablespoons dark rum
- 3 eggs plus 1 egg yolk

Scald the cream and pour it on to the rest of the ingredients beaten together. Wet six small ramekins and strain in the custard. Set in a roasting tin containing enough hand-hot water to come half way up the ramekins. Cover with foil. Put in the oven at gas mark 4, 180°C, 350°F and cook for about 40 minutes until set. Remove from the oven, cool, and refrigerate until required. This mixture is quite dark with a rich caramel flavour. For a lighter custard use, for example, peach liqueur with a dash of lemon juice.

• Different size grills are made by Le Creuset: round, square and rectangular. From about £13-£31. Victor Castware make a 9½in x 10in grill, with a long handle, for about £21. Specialist kitchenware shops or the large department stores will order if they do not have them in stock.

vegetarians too, which is more difficult if you cook the traditional lamb and vegetable stew. Slices of aubergine and courgettes marinated in olive oil also grill very well on the cast iron. With the grills and the stew, I serve a platter of couscous, the pale, golden cereal made from semolina, which is quick and easy to cook if you follow the directions on the packet.

Pitta bread, hummus (the delicious purée of chick peas), cucumbers, olives, almonds, yoghurt and, of course, plenty of fresh coriander are perfect accompaniments. This is a meal that is fun to prepare and fun to eat, to linger over

indoors or out, for it is both hot and cold weather food.

**Hummus Serves 4 to 6**

- 1½lb/455g cooked or tinned chick peas
- 2 cloves peeled and crushed garlic
- juice of ½ lemon
- 3 to 4 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon sesame oil or sesame paste (tahini)
- salt and pepper to taste

Drain the chick peas, and put with the rest of the ingredients in a blender or food processor. Process until smooth. Spoon into a bowl, and trickle a little more olive oil on top. Decorate with fresh coriander leaves, and serve with olives, hot pitta bread, sesame bread sticks and raw vegetables.

**Vegetable stew for couscous Serves 6 to 8**

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 onion
- 3 to 4 cloves garlic
- 1 tablespoon cumin seeds
- ½ tablespoon ground coriander
- 1 teaspoon ground cardamom
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 4 cloves
- 1 aubergine
- 4 courgettes

1½lb/455g fresh or tinned tomatoes

- 2 small turnips
- 1 green or red pepper
- 2 carrots
- ½ pint/280ml water or stock
- ¼lb/340g cooked or tinned chick peas
- 2 tablespoons fresh coriander
- salt to taste

Fry the onions, garlic and spices in the olive oil. Slice or dice the vegetables, after washing and peeling as necessary, and add to the pan. Add the stock or water, bring to the boil, and simmer until the vegetables are tender but not mushy. Add the chick peas

and coriander, and bring back to the boil. Season to taste and serve hot.

If you cannot buy the harissa, or hot sauce, to accompany the vegetable stew, you can make a substitute using tomato purée. Recently, I have come across vegetable purée in a tube which is even more useful, as a base for pasta sauces, soups and casseroles. Produced in Italy by Star SpA and labelled simply "Vegetable Purée", it costs in Budgen Foodstores, for example, 42p for a 5oz/140g tube.

**Hot sauce Serves 6 to 8**

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- ½ teaspoon ground coriander
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper or chilli powder, to taste
- 2 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed

Mix thoroughly, and let it stand for 20 minutes or so before using to let the flavours develop. A much more authentic and powerful hot sauce can be made by pounding fresh, hot red peppers to a paste, and mixing it with the other ingredients.

**Minced lamb kebabs Serves 4 to 6**

- 1 onion

## DRINK

# A case of the best

Jane MacQuitty believes that wine warehouses are a good idea, but do they work?

"Pile it high, sell it cheap." That appears to be the wine marketing slogan of the 1980s. Call yourself a wine warehouse and you can't go wrong. But plenty of wine warehouses have gone wrong, and disastrously so. One of the saddest demises was that of the northern-based Wynnot Wine Warehouse group of seven, whose courageous 1983 attempt to provide true warehouse service in the wine wastelands around Manchester collapsed last year.

What upset me about this group's inelegant flop was that the project appeared to have all the essential ingredients for an authentic wine warehouse recipe: Wynnot Wine was not one of those half-baked enterprises in which some inexperienced wine trader brings over a lorry load of cheap Liebfraumilch, gets a licence, sticks up a few posters in a disused garage, calls it a wine warehouse and flogs everything for £16 a case. This was a seriously thought out operation, backed in its early days by Majestic Wine Warehouses, the supremos of the wine warehouse business.

Wynnot's failure, I suspect, was not its method of trading but its customers, or lack of them, and their meagre buying habits.

The success of any warehouse operation depends on a number of key factors. Much the most important of these is having a list which features a wide, interesting, but not necessarily comprehensive, range of good wines from both classic and non-classic regions on sale at low prices.

A warehouse atmosphere is an asset: customers like any spare money to be spent on bringing down prices, not on expensive fixtures. The highest turnover wine warehouses tend to boast the most austere interiors.

As the attraction of the warehouse system is based on the quick, convenient buying of wine in bulk, a well-organized site, with plenty of parking, is essential to enable customers to transfer their wine quickly and easily to the car boot and home. Although warehouses have the disadvantage of insisting you buy a minimum of 12 bottles at a time (a vital factor in their profitability), they have the advantage of allowing, if not positively encouraging, people to taste before buying. Newcomers to wine enjoy this free



Crate choice: the bottle mountains of Majestic Wine Warehouses — still the leaders in the bulk business

method of finding out what they like, and those with more knowledge can have fun experimenting with the wider shores of wine including such rarities as an Indian Methode Champenoise sparkling or a bottle of Chinese Riesling.

This is the formula being pursued by Wizard Wine, a new, and so far successful, wine warehouse chain of seven outlets. Whether the business founded by Tony and Hilary Mason in the spring of 1986 will be able to succeed where so many others have failed, is an intriguing question. Tony Mason has notched up 20 years in the

wine trade, including working at Fortnum & Mason. It was the six years he spent at Majestic that led him to found Wizard.

Majestic now has 23 branches at the last count, with three more due to open before the end of the year. But like most of London's early, ill-fated, wine warehouses, it went broke in 1981 and was bought out by its present management. Its 1982 wines were pricier than many of their competitors' and, as I said at the time, many were also poor in quality. However, three years later they had learned their lesson and offered a

bumper summer list of more than 300 wines.

John Aphor, chairman of Bejam and a wine buff, has high hopes for Wizard. Since the spring of last year he has given the company financial backing and has arranged for four of the Bejam sites to include a Wizard wine warehouse. Another is due to open in Suburban next month. Bejam already has a wine list of its own which is now partly supplied by Wizard, another useful source of revenue for them. But whether Wizard will become the David to the Majestic Goliath remains to be seen.

## FAVOURITE WAREHOUSES

**Majestic Wine Warehouses:** King of wine warehouse country and deservedly so: amazing wines at mostly amazingly low prices: 23 branches in London, the south, and as far north as Birmingham; 421 New Kings Road, London SW6 (01-731 3131).

**Wizard Wine Warehouses:** Good all-round range; seven branches in London and the Home Counties. (01-686 5703).

**Fine wine specialists:** Bibendum: Claret, Rhone and French country wines are all worthwhile 113 Regents Park Road, London NW1 (01-586 9761).

**Italian wines:** Wine Cellars: First class Italian bottles and useful French selection; 153-155 Wandsworth High Street, London SW18 (01-871 9379).

## Wines of Westhorpe — for more wine value TASTING CASES

Eight selections (12 bottles in each) from the value for money wines of probably the two best growing UK wine sources: Bulgaria and Hungary.

**Bulgarian Case — the 5 new Country wine blends, and 7 varietals** ..... 22.90

**Top Bulgarian Case — the outstanding new Plovdiv, Reserve wine, Premiums, Comedians, and 2 varietals** ..... 32.90

**Hungarian Case — 2 standard varietals, 4 varietals, and the Tokaji Aszu 5** ..... 27.90

**Tokaji Case — Hungary's famous Tokaji wine: 2 Szamorodni's, and 3, 4, and 5 Puttonos Aszu (5cl) bottles** ..... 42.90

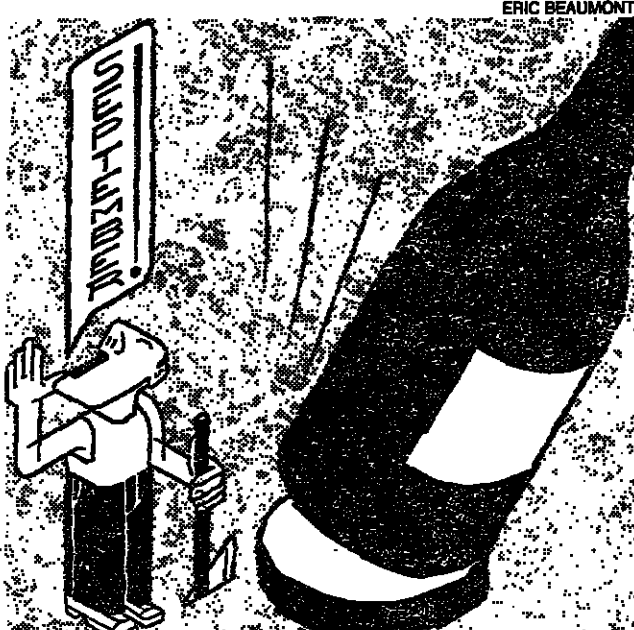
**Dry Whites Case — the dry Bulgarian Mchana, 5 Bulgarian varietals including the oak's Khan Kiro, and 2 of the new cold fermented Hungarian varietals** ..... 24.90

**Medium and Sweet Whites Case — 2 Mchana, Bulgarian Riesling and 2 Country blends, 3 standard Hungarian varietals, 2 special varietals, and 2 Tokaji's** ..... 27.40

**Reds Case — 16 Hungary's Merlot, 4 Bulgarian from the standard Cabernet (including red in the UK) upwards, and 2 magnums** ..... 30.90

**Budget Case — Bulgaria's Mchana, Riesling, and Country blends, with 2 Hungarian** ..... 21.20

Prices include VAT and delivery (UK mainland) for orders of 5 or more cases, under 5 cases: freight £5 per order, 10+ cases: £10 per order. Full list from: Wines of Westhorpe, Unit 1, 2, 3, Port Avenue Estate, Sandown Park, Luton LU3 3AE. Tel. 0462 88800.



## Marks' new world

I like wine success stories. Nothing pleases me more than when a young winemaker finally produces a first-class wine, or when a country, whose vines are new to our shores, eventually gets its bottles well distributed among our wine shop shelves, or when a classic wine region comes up with a truly classic vintage.

For the first time, Marks & Spencer are treating their customers to a range of Australian wines.

What is intriguing about the 10 they have selected is that although supplied by three different sources, all of them share characteristics of softness, roundness and sweetness.

If you are looking for a soft, peachy-flavoured white wine, the '87 Riesling is good at £3.25 a bottle. I also liked the crisp, pungent, green '87 Pinot Blanc (£3.99) from the same producer, billed on the bottle as being produced by Adelaide Wine Estates who are rather better known here by their Yalumba or Hill-Smith titles. Better still is the '86 Semillon, an easier to obtain Barossa Valley grape, whose buttery, vanilla-like scent and firm bite is good value at £3.99.

Of the reds the soft, luscious, black fruit-like non-vintage Fruity Red (£3.25) lives up to its name and the '85 Cabernet Sauvignon with its sweet, juicy, blackcurrant and glycerine pastille-like taste is a good example of the well-equipped Yalumba winery's style (£3.99).

Much more impressive is the newly extended M & S Connoisseur's Collection. I

was delighted when it was expanded recently to 20 wines on sale at 50 different branches.

Two of my favourites in this range include the ultra-delicious, refined, elegant cedary '85 Baron Villeneuve de Cantemerle (£6.99), the second wine of Chateau Cantemerle that, despite its youth, makes a gorgeous glass of claret now; do also try the '85 Les Fiefs de Lagrange (£7.99), a second wine from the recently revamped third growth Chateau Lagrange in St Julien. This robust claret does need more time yet but its wonderful scent of new oak and very fine, robust, sturdy-cedary style will be superb.

Good news this week, too, from the Victoria Wine Company's Care du Vin division: two more of these style-conscious wine outlets will be open before Christmas. It is well worth while buying Care du Vin's biscuity, non-vintage Charles Heidsieck Brut champagne, still discounted at £10.99 a bottle or now down to £10.08 per bottle, by the case. Some of Tesco's list is excellent but too many wines are still low quality. However, there are two white wines which would be ideal for any warm Indian summer days: Vacheron's lovely, fresh, flowering-currant and elderflower-like white wine, priced at £5.69 a bottle — an excellent example of the worthwhile wines made in the Loire in 1987 and a distinct notch above the '86 and '85 Vacheron Sancerres that Tesco stocked before.

J.M.



## ARTS INTERVIEW

# Nostalgic hooper's enduring ways

Mickey Rooney's West End debut was 40 years ago. Now he's back with his own musical, says Sheridan Morley, having found fame, fortune, seven wives and God

We are talking legend here, and survival, and come back, and everything else that keeps the American showbusiness dream just this side of a living nightmare. Though he has mysteriously never been asked to play the part, Mickey Rooney is, at 67, the nearest we are ever likely to a real-life Willy Loman, living, like the hero of Arthur Miller's classic play, out there on a smile and a shoeshine and often precious little else. Except that he does now have a bit musical, a seventh wife, a golfing hotel in Pennsylvania and God: though maybe not in precisely that order.

Mr Rooney is in London to star with Ann Miller in *Sugar Babies*, which opens at the Savoy on September 20 after previews from September 13 and eight years in America, where it has been rapturously received as a tribute, but also a monument to the long-life survival of its two leading hoofers. The huge nostalgic success of the show has come as something of a life-saving rescue operation to Rooney, who, by 1965, had achieved the not-inconsiderable feat of making 200 films, which earned a total of \$3,000 million at the world box office, taking home \$12 million of that himself, and then filing for bankruptcy.

But his career remains a remarkable history of popular American entertainment in this century: the son of a burlesque comedian called Joe Yule, he was on stage in Brooklyn at the age of two, went on to star in 17 Andy Hardy pictures and the best of the Judy Garland musicals, married Ava Gardner, played Puck on stage and screen for Max Reinhardt, and created the cinema's first punk kid in *Boys' Town*, a script to which he soon returns for a television series, but this time playing the grizzled old priest.

This will not be Rooney's first West End appearance on stage. "I came here 40 years ago, to the London Palladium just after the war, and it was not a good idea. They had never had a Hollywood star there before, and one of the

papers ran a headline: 'American here to take our money'. I think they thought I was supposed to appear without a fee.

"Anyway, the reviews were terrible, but I survived the two weeks: it was a very touchy time; but then, I've had a lot of those. In the 1960s the work was very sparse indeed: there was just no demand for me and Hollywood, anyway. We all moved to Fort Lauderdale to live with her parents."

By now Rooney had become a born-again Christian, as a result of an unusual encounter with an angel in a Lake Tahoe coffee shop.

"I was there doing my nightclub act, way down the bottom half of the bill and in deep depression, and suddenly one morning there was this angel, dressed as a waiter at my table, to tell me that Jesus loved me, and ever since then it's really been all right."

Before God found Andy Hardy, it was rather less than all right. After his vaudeville start ("people always thought I was a very old midget, whereas I was just a very small child") he was taken by his mother (who had separated from his father when was two) out to California, where, by 1926, he was making silent pictures as Joe Yule junior.

By 1932 he had become Mickey Rooney, by 1937 he had become Andy Hardy, and by 1939 he had made the first of his Judy Garland musicals: *Babes in Arms*. "Mr Rooney now has nothing to learn," thought Dilys Powell then, "except possibly reticence."

Another critic once said that the best thing about Rooney was his spasmodic ability to transcend vulgarity and make it into an all-American virtue, and it may well be that one of his more lasting achievements was simply not to go the way of his beloved Garland: "There was something just so awful about Judy at the end: it was as though audiences wanted her to become the American Flak. 'Show us you're still alive', they'd say, 'go out and sing some more', instead of just trying to heal her."

"I tried to get a hold of her at the end of her life, but it was far too late. I always loved her far too much to marry her; she had enough to cope with already, why should I subject her to me?"

The film star he did marry was Ava Gardner, who remains one of his best friends: "We were both under contract to MGM and I was 21 and dressed as Carmen Miranda at the time, so she could hardly refuse."

"She was 19 and it was really a mistake, especially as the studio made me have 17 Best Men at the ceremony, all of them press agents. But, once we got divorced, we really began to love each other very much."

"The great mistake people make in marriage, and I should know, is that they marry people they love. Never do that; marry someone you like, preferably your best friend, if they happen to be of a different sex, and you'll eventually



Mickey Rooney: came to the stage at the age of two. He's now 67 and living with the principal motto "Never Retire But Inspire"

end up loving them. It never works out the other way around: you never like people after you love them."

For three years, from 1939, Mickey Rooney topped all box office cinema charts, not just in California or America, but in the world: "It was an odd kind of feeling, and I guess it made me impossible to live with or work with after a while."

"I did get very difficult, and then when the career began to go wrong I got even worse. At 30 I felt like I was a 100, and from then on it just got terrible: most of the films I made in the fifties and sixties never got released, they just sort of escaped."

"But, by the time my last wife and I moved to Florida, I knew God was going to help, and sure enough, just after we got there, Eddie Bracken turned up with a

comedy called *Three Goats and a Blanket* which I took around dinner-theatres for about 10 years.

"I never went near Broadway, because the last time I'd been there it was with Judy doing 10 shows a day in vaudeville at the Capitol, with queues around the blocks, and I figured I could never do as well as that again. Besides I was getting \$3,500 a week in dinner-theatres."

But, about 10 years ago, by which time Rooney had married his seventh and present wife (a country-and-western folk singer named Jan Chamberlain), money was still something of a problem. "Jackie Gleason always said to me: 'Mickey, don't worry, you have a cheque in your pocket called Talent and you can cash it in anytime you want'. The only trouble with that theory was that Jackie Gleason was never a bank

cashier in Florida when I really wanted one."

"Anyway, this professor of theatre at the University of Tennessee, Ralph Allen, then came along with the idea of putting together a nostalgic tribute to vaudeville starring me and Ann Miller, who was just about the only dancer in Hollywood I had never married, so I agreed and we've never looked back."

"As soon as we got into rehearsal with *Sugar Babies*, I knew we had something very special: after all, I started in that world, and since it died there's been a kind of nostalgia for it, among audiences who wanted it brought back, just the way that *Barnum* brought back the circus for them."

With seven sons and five daughters, not to mention a model grand-daughter, who has already been on the cover of *Vogue* in

Japan, Rooney now combines a kind of manic greasepainted evangelism with the old techniques of the trouper. Where Osborne's Archie Rice, in *The Entertainer*, had gone dead behind the eyes, Rooney has come back to life, a born-again hooper who now collects all the honorary Oscars and television Emmys and other showbiz awards, that somehow never came his way.

"At last I've now got the hay in the barn, enough money from *Sugar Babies* never to have to work again; I've learnt how to stay married for more than 10 years, how to save money, even how to live with myself. People think that after 250 pictures I should be either senile or dead, and they probably come to *Sugar Babies* just to make sure that I'm still breathing, because the chances are that if I am then they are, too."

"But, if God took me in then he'll take anyone, and I find that kind of encouraging: here's this balding, overweight, five-foot-three guy still working and getting paid for it."

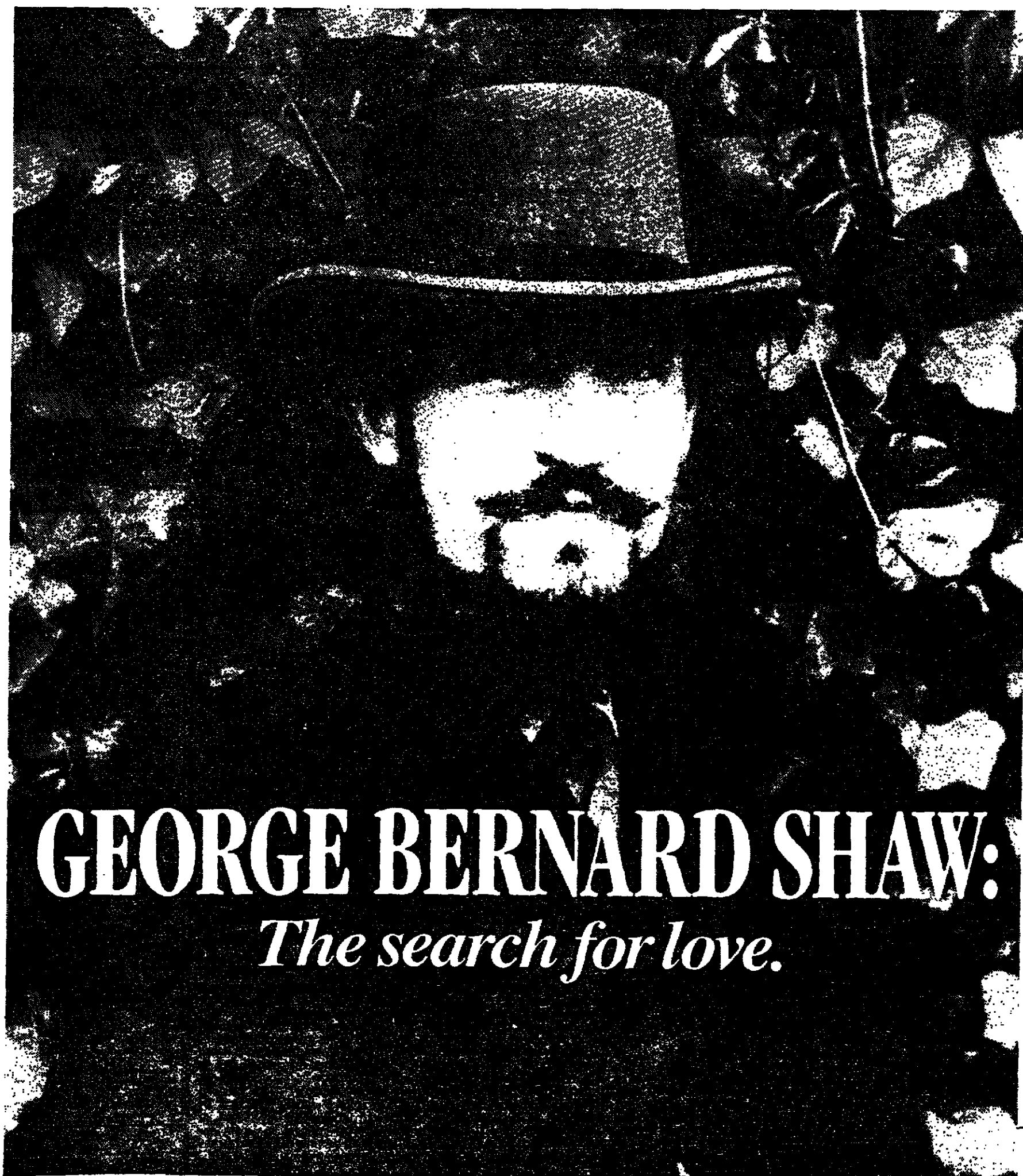
Only in America could they have invented Mickey Rooney, and only in America could he now be in charge of a nationwide Mickey Rooney Old People's Association, of which the principal motto is "Never Retire But Inspire".

Rooney is very good on sayings like that: of *Sugar Babies* he memorably notes that "in a cut and bleeding world we are the Band-aid". Although seeing the show a decade ago on Broadway I have to say that, in medical terms, it struck me more as a sort of semi-sleeping pill.

But, then again, Rooney is not, as he disarming says, an actor of the critics: "I am for the people: if they want culture, let them go see Sir Laurence Olivier."

There is something infinitely likeable about a man whose life and career have often resembled nothing so strongly as a traffic accident, from which he walked away almost unscathed: "I always said the great thing was just to step out into the road and wait to get hit by something: occasionally it knocks you down, but very often it just carries you along to somewhere new." As they say in burlesque: you better believe it.

● *Sugar Babies* opens at the Savoy on September 20. *Boys' Town* can be seen on Channel 4 today at 1pm.



## GEORGE BERNARD SHAW: *The search for love.*

### EXCLUSIVE

#### PART ONE OF THE ACCLAIMED BIOGRAPHY

Prolific playwright, wit, philosopher and critic, George Bernard Shaw created his own character as skilfully as any of those in his plays.

Discover the truth behind this multifaceted genius in the first extract from Michael Holroyd's extraordinary new biography.

TOMORROW

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Wander woman

THE TIMES  
ARTS DIARY

After breakfasting at the Savoy, Mr. Shaw will be seen at the National Theatre, where he will be giving a lecture on his work. He will also be seen at the National Theatre, where he will be giving a lecture on his work.

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## THE ARTS

## TELEVISION

## Wander woman

A series called *Romance* (ITV) might seem designed to appease the anti-bloodshed league: strong on the Kleenex, soft on the focus. In the event, the first kiss of the inaugural *Out of the Shadows* was logged after an hour and a quarter which had witnessed three murders, an exploding Volvo and more violence against women than the entire history of Punch and Judy.

Alexandra Paul, for these purposes an employee of the American Embassy in Athens, displayed a rare genius for selecting moody locations in which to be stalked by armed thugs. Leading with her bob, the actress evened the score by means of some bundling escapes and the odd well-aimed elbow.

Leading with its guide-book, the production selected some choice postcard locations, not neglecting the famous Acropolis. "Why here?" demanded the well-known Charles Dance of the hooded eyes and tense mien, honouring an appointment with a fellow policeman in a celebrated open-air theatre, downhill from the renowned Parthenon. Because, it was explained, the Greek cop's fancy was the third bacchant from the right in the rehearsing chorus line. Not even Cliff Richard stooped to such excuses.

The dialogue evolved into subtitles for the ear. "Why the Art Squad?" probed Alexandra, grilling her saviour on an expedient double bed in a seedy but safe hotel room. "I like beautiful things," Charles replied, nodding, "and someone has to see they don't get into the wrong hands."

All the above, it should be noted, was in the service of culture: specifically, the investigation of icon-smuggling in diplomatic bags packed by Michael J. Shannon. Cornered in a picturesque, candle-lit island monastery, the villain pulled out his old equalizer and proceeded to pop off at everything on two legs. Needless to say, he got his.

When it came, the smooching was sensitively handled, and some benign spirit in casting had Wanda Ventham as an Old Master faking ready to play the elder-sister Cupid role. But there was only an hour's worth of drama in the thing, and one would really rather be on holiday.

Martin Cropper

Cinema's origins, glories and future are evoked in the new Museum of the Moving Image. David Robinson unveils its wonders

## Hands on and keep moving

A fortnight before opening day, the Museum of the Moving Image is still, in the nature of such things, a wilderness of unfinished displays, unpacked crates, unhurried workmen, blind video screens; carpets and windows covered with newspaper or splashed paint, and peremptory notices everywhere: "Positively no smoking on the main deck," "Don't unlock these doors." As Leslie Hardcastle—who from the outset, eight years ago, has been the somewhat centrifugal focal figure in the project—says, "You're seeing a theatre before the actors arrive and before the scenery is up."

More than enough is already visible, however, to disarm even the most sceptical views of a museum for the detritus of a century of cinema, together with the technologies of the future. As you thread MOMI's seemingly endless maze, the projected visit time of 90 minutes begins to look like a serious underestimate.

The name of the Museum, already plagiarized by a similar enterprise in New York, was invented by Hardcastle (as he now remembers, against much initial resistance). "It has to be much more than a film museum. Today we have to take in television, video, and all sorts of coming technologies."

"Nor must you think of MOMI in isolation. It is side by side with the National Film Theatre, which has after all been for 37 years the greatest museum of cinema in the world." For a good many of those years Hardcastle has been the NFT's General Administrator. The Museum and the NFT are entered by the same new foyer.

MOMI has predecessors—the Cinéma-thèque Française in Paris and cinema museums in Brussels and Frankfurt—but, apart from being much larger, it will not be quite like any existing institution. It is an odd mixture of exhibits and display, of hard information and irreverent jokes. "I think we're unique in the breadth of our aim, in trying to appeal at every level from the casual visitor or family party who just want a fun show, to pure buffs, or the specialist who can make use of the study rooms and information banks we provide."

Hardcastle "co-authored" MOMI with David Francis, Curator of the National Film Archive.



Building a stairway to paradise: David Francis (left) and Leslie Hardcastle, co-ordinators, pose on the Pillared Staircase of Stars at MOMI

With Neal Potter as designer, Francis has persistently battled for academic rigour, but he also respects the strong element of magic and drama which is paramount for Hardcastle, whose family background is the theatre.

The itinerary is roughly chronological, with interludes on the way to celebrate the great events and crises of film history; and to intercut the parallel stories of artistic and technical development, against the background of the social and political turmoil of the cinema's century.

The lower floor of the Museum—reclaimed after much wrestling with the Lambeth Council who wanted it as a car park—conducts the visitor through a world of optical marvels that paved the way for the invention of moving

pictures. There are the expected shadow shows, magic lanterns and all the -scopes and -tropes—zootropes, thaumatropes, zoetropes, phenakistoscopes, praxinoscopes, chromatropes, stereoscopes—with which classically educated physicists and toy-makers dazzled 19th-century eyes.

Suddenly you are thrust into the gloom of Etienne Robertson's Phantasmagoria, a horror movie show of the 1790s, in an ancient chapel where the periwigs of plaster fellow-spectators stand on end in fright at the spectres conjured out of lamps and lenses. You pass on, and Mybridge's galloping horses flicker on the screen; then comes the Lumière Cinématographe—with a real projector of the time—in the white and gold Grand Café.

Later, you step directly from a Biograph show into the trenches of the First World War, and watch through periscopes the Battle of the Somme, the nightmare preserved for ever on celluloid. It goes on and on—a celestial stairway flanked by caryatids with the faces of Fairbanks, Gish, Valentino, Pickford and the other silent deities; a shop from Charlie Chaplin's boyhood London, with his hat and cane and his contract with the Keystone Company in the window; a Soviet propaganda train of the Twenties, bringing movies to the masses. And so past Fred Astaire's dancing tail-suit, Dali's Mae West lips sofa, an Odell foyer, a flying Superman, to *Star Wars* and a robot surrounded with screens beaming out images from every station and satellite.

It is, above all, the moving image that is celebrated. There are more than 100 screens, from television monitors to wide screen. The rival inventors of television argue fiercely from their independent screens; at 10 Downing Street, presided over by a *Splitting Image* Maggie, a succession of Prime Ministers vie for the screen; Alf Garnett spits abuse from his electronic window.

The visit is far from passive. There is an emphasis on "hands-on". The visitor will be able to edit a film, do film animation, or sit in a studio make-up chair.

One of the riskier innovations is a staff of actors, who replace conventional security men and guides. The intention is for pro-tean performances: the actor will shift from the role of a 17th-

century travelling lanternist to a 19th-century physicist or a First World War soldier or nurse.

At a time when most institutions are feeling the pinch of austerity, this has been a costly project. Ironically, however, less than a quarter of a budget approaching £12m has been spent on the museum itself, including design, displays, exhibits and eight years' salaries. The rest has gone on the structure, and principally in battling with a supremely difficult site, imprisoned under an arch of Waterloo Bridge. Almost £1m went on safety provisions alone.

None of this money has come from public sources. The funding was launched, at a time when it was cheerfully foreseen as a £4m project, by a donation of £1.5m from the Hong Kong shipping magnate Sir Yue Kung Pao. The rest of the money has come from companies and private donors. Anthony Smith, the British Film Institute's just-departed director, is reckoned a fund-raiser without equal. "It is certain that there would never have been a MOMI without him," says Hardcastle.

The biggest benefactor has been J. Paul Getty Junior, whose other contributions to the BFI (the parent body of MOMI, the NFT and the National Film Archive) has included the Archive's J. Paul Getty Conservation Centre at Berkhamsted—the world's most advanced centre for the problems of preserving film material.

Getty's interest comes from a personal passion for movies; and some of MOMI's more flamboyant initiatives—such as buying Marilyn Monroe's shimmy dress from *Some Like It Hot* for £19,800, earlier this year—were inspired and financed by him. This investment paid instant dividends: MOMI received worldwide press coverage worth far more than the price.

The running costs are estimated at around £1.5m a year. To cover this it will need about 435,000 visitors annually, with a top admission rate of £2.25 and concessions for children, senior citizens, students, families and schools parties. The London Dungeon has almost that many admissions, and Madame Tussauds, with higher admission charges, attracts five times the number.

## THE TIMES ARTS DIARY

In a project that calls to mind its balmy, barmy days, the Arts Council is giving an artist £4,380 to sow a croquet lawn. Heather Ackroyd's *Bad Grace*, the politics of the garden is a theatre performance requiring the growing and laying a carpet of real grass. The audience, watching through railings will see a woman, initially surrounded by a pile of books, distribute mallets and pins and then play the game with her brother. At the end both drive the railings into the lawn. What's it about? In her grant application Ackroyd mentions Pandora, the garden as "female attribute", "the process of conjunction" and "the need to transcend the state of immanence" (sic). She at least has come up with an interesting horticultural observation: grass apparently takes two weeks to grow on a quilt and has a "curious animated quality and vivid colour".

Scatological Steven Berkoff, whose play *Greek* is enjoying both a stage and opera revival, is to direct Shakespeare. Joe Papp has chosen him to mount *Coriolanus* this autumn, as the latest of his complete Shakespeare series at the Public Theatre, off Broadway. Though it will be Berkoff's first time directing the Bard in the States, the real question is how he will cope directing *Deer Hunter* star Christopher Walken in the title role—both have famously volatile temperaments.

After threatening all manner of things, Mary Whitehouse has decided not only against a private prosecution of Scorsese's *Last Temptation of Christ* but never to see the movie—just not her idea of a night out, it seems. Although

there will now be no need to trouble the courts over the matter, barrister Geoffrey Robertson, her old *Gay News* case adversary, I noticed, did make it to Thursday's London preview.

The honour of having American novelist Jay MacInerney publish *The Story of My Life* in Britain before the United States, wore thin last week when his American publishers ordered his immediate return. Bang went a book signing at Covent Garden and a public "conversation" with journalist Robert Elms at the ICA. Elms says he then also pulled out, not because he lost his nerve after the hostile reception for his first novel, *In Separation of the Creek*, but because he would have found a conversation with himself boring. As it happens he does not sound heart broken at missing one with MacInerney, whom he accuses of a deficient sense of humour. As evidence, Elms says: "I once told him I had two uncles called Mac and Ernie and that we called them 'MacInerney' when they came into the room together. He didn't laugh."

Latest on the Chichester Festival director stakes. The rumours I reported about Donald Sinden and Penelope Keith vying to succeed John Gale were well founded. I hear both are on the final shortlist and have been joined by Keith Michell, who held the post once before, from 1974 to 1977. Chichester's first director was, of course, Olivier.

After years of bitter attack from Sir Peter Hall, the Arts Council has got its revenge. At the end of 15 years as director of the council's number one client, Sir Peter is to get no send off from 105 Piccadilly. And neither chairman Sir William Rees Mogg nor secretary general Lake Ritter will be at his leaving party at the National Theatre next month. The Arts Council protests: "They're both away, genuinely away."

Andrew Billen

## Odd chemistry

## LONDON MUSIC

BBCSO/Janowski  
Albert Hall/Radio 3

The chemistry at work in Szymanowski's Second Violin Concerto seems to me a little odd. Its solo part is never anything other than a virtuoso one, whether in lyrical or more aggressive vein, and yet the effect of the piece as an entity is intentionally restrained. Above all, though, Szymanowski's experiment with form, harking two different kinds of mood against each other, joining them together with a cadenza, and repeating them in reverse order, seems to preclude the dynamism that more significant areas of instability might create.

Nevertheless, it was hard not to be beguiled in this performance by the composer's confident handling of what is anyway an idiosyncratic language, while this subtly-scored work also repeated the benefits of the relaxed, right assurance of the BBC Symphony Orchestra under

Acis and Galatea  
Midsummer Opera

It has taken a couple of Australians, in an Ealing garden, to make Handel feel at home again. His very English opera, *Acis and Galatea*, was written for private performance at Cannons, the Edgware residence of the Duke of Chandos. The activities in the gracious house and garden of 90 Grace Road, W5, come pretty near, I suspect, to reincarnating the spirit of the great original.

This was Midsummer Opera's third Handel venture; and they get better and better. Lorelle and David Skewes, who both direct the

Marek Janowski and of the marvellous solo playing by Lydia Mordkovich. For her the concerto was a vehicle for a self-effacing brilliance as well as a gorgeously rich cantabile tone.

Around the Szymanowski were placed pillars of solidly Germanic music, by Wagner and Brahms. Janowski created an apt sense of massiveness in Wagner's Prelude to Act One of *Die Meistersinger*, helped by the BBCSO's eager brass, while his magisterial control of pacing in the Act Three Prelude of the same opera made the music in all its quietness seem to stand still.

The blend of the orchestra was also impressive, as it was in Brahms's Fourth Symphony, at any rate after a hesitant beginning by the higher strings. Power seemed to gather inexorably, if sometimes implicitly, as the piece progressed, so that though the first movement ended imposingly enough, by the time the final cadence came to its close a vast, self-regenerating wave of enlightenment and acceptance had overwhelmed all.

Stephen Pettiit

company and sing in it, are providing not only a captivating evening's entertainment, but some of the most stylish Handel performance around.

In Alan Privett's gently witty production, Handel's happy nymphs and happy swains find themselves in an Edwardian Arcadia. The chorus of five are houseguests in blazers and boaters; their dancing and sporting is limited to reading the very paper which diverts you now; they are ministered to and advised by a sour butler (David Skewes).

If all this sounds like yet another undergraduate romp, the details are transmuted so deftly and unselfconsciously that the audience is won over time and again. The change of pace in the chorus "Happy, happy we" signals a quick game of croquet, and, in the absence of any machines for the entry of the monster Polyphemus, the chorus simply takes their contrapuntal cue and shamelessly turn the occasion into an excuse for a madrigal. Acis (Lynton Atkinson) really is turned into a fountain, though...

Frolicking apart, the production's vindication lies in its musical excellence. David Roblou, directing eight players on period instruments from a harpsichord inside the conservatory, generates a spirited rapport with his singers in matters of phrasing, pacing and ornamentation; and in Lorelle Skewes's Galatea and Brian Banatyne-Scott's caddish cricketer of a Polyphemus, he has two indefatigable stylists. Try your utmost for a ticket tonight.

Hilary Finch

## Impishly lyrical myth

## EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

## OPERA

Nixon in China  
Playhouse

Fittingly for an opera dealing in "contemporary mythology", John Adams's *Nixon in China* has itself acquired almost mythological status: a genuinely popular new opera. Not yet a year old, it has had a string of American and Dutch performances, a commercial recording and highlights played in concerts. Now the original Houston Grand Opera cast is showing Edinburgh what all the fuss is about.

Clearly, a score of instant impact, unflagging energy and bright, uncomplicated colours helps. Adams may motor along the phased sequences of stock minimalist tracks for much of the time, but his lyricism sometimes blossoms impressively and his orchestration has many impish touches. Moreover, his music underpins the important moments in the most luscious Hollywood tradition.

Rarely can a plane have landed on an opera stage in a greater blaze of quasi-Wagnerian glory, or old politicians surveyed the failure of their schemes to more seductively nostalgic saxophones and violins.

But it is the winning theatricality of Peter Sellars's production



Ciphers in play: Chou En-Lai, Nixon, Mrs Nixon and Wu Ching-hua

that is the chief asset. He and the librettist Alice Goodman (whose text is an entertainingly droll compilation of "statesman-speak") clearly ascribe to the Tolstoy thesis that events determine rulers' actions, not vice versa. It does not really matter in the opera what Nixon and Mao say, because it did not matter at the time.

So, freed from actuality, the action takes flight in glorious fantasy. The superb Peking Opera-style Act II dances, for instance, draw the Nixons and Kissinger into a surreal and increasingly violent scenario: a demonstration, perhaps, of the ultimate bankruptcy of political rhetoric.

The main new element in the Edinburgh performances is the

Scottish Chamber Orchestra, which does sterling service to Adams's score. However, the composer—conducting his opera for the first time—seemed to have little judgement of balance: many of the words were masked, usually by the mighty entry of some synthesiser-enhanced pedal note (faulty amplification did not help). The performances on stage were excellent, especially James Maddalena's uncanny Nixon. Carolann Page's homely Pat Nixon, Thomas Hammons's Kissinger (the least benign caricature) and Trudy Ellen Craney's high-colouratura Madame Mao. Further performances tonight and Monday.

Richard Morrison

follow the line that a certain measure of illusion is necessary to save us from unacceptable truths. This has already been suggested by the fate of Amelia, 18-year-old daughter of Otto's colleague Arturo.

Arturo believes he can cure her of a terminal heart condition by feeding her up, but as she herself stoically remarks, this is just wishful thinking, and she dies. When Calogero presumes that this is another illusion, Otto demurs with talk of another illusionist much more powerful than he, whose tricks he cannot fathom.

John Lawrence plays Calogero with an awkward, blistering rigidity which treats that characteristic 20th-century narrow line between absurdity and tragic heroism: a strong performance, with something of Michael Gambon's Eddie Carbone about it. The play comes across as a neglected masterpiece.

Harry Eyres

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## RECORDS

# Burning down the Acid House

Taken out of the clubs and into the recording studio, the 'hypnotic techno-psychedelia' of the current Acid House craze produces music of mind-boggling banality. David Sinclair braves a barrage of new releases and takes solace in the clarity and purpose of Michelle Shocked

## ROCK

Few of the bizarre musical permutations that have become fashionable in recent years have produced such an inordinately diminished soundtrack as that accompanying the current Acid House craze. The music is tailored to the needs of a thriving club scene where the dancers take (or pretend to take) the consciousness-warping drug LSD and then break out conspicuously to a kind of hypnotic techno-psychedelia.

Great fun in the field, so to speak, but imagine, if you will, the Sixties psychedelic bands toiled up with Eighties drum machine and synthesizer technology. Then take all those chemically-assisted doodles and plaster them on top of the monotonous, unvarying 4/4 thud that characterized the disco/Eurobeat mania of the Seventies and you are close to the hardcore sound of House Hallucinations - Pump Up London Vol 1.

It is a compilation which drags the listener through several hours in space to arrive at that unlikely point on the stylistic continuum where the sonic experimentation of, say, Tonto's Expanding Headband meets the relentlessly four-square rhythm track of Saturday Night Fever.

A double album of marathon mixes, it averages less than three tracks per side, each virtually indistinguishable from the last. As a sort of pulsating wallpaper music, bereft of form, melody and lyrics, it resonates sympathetically with the soul of a technological era in which space stations orbit the globe on autopilot and factories are routinely staffed by robots.

The House phenomenon began in the clubs of Chicago, but has taken root here sufficiently for

Various Artists: House Hallucinations - Pump Up London Vol 1 (A&M/Breakout HSEA 9002)

Various Artists: The House Sound Of London Vol IV: The Jackin' Zone (Jfr FFRDP 4)

Various Artists: Urban Acid (Urban URBLP 15)

Various Artists: Acid Jazz & Other Ilicit Grooves (Urban URBLP 16)

Michelle Shocked: Short Sharp Shocked (Cooking Vinyl CVLP 1)

Siouxsie and the Banshees: Peepshow (Wunderland SHERC 5)

Midge Ure: Answers To Nothing (Chrysalis CCD 1649)

The House Sound Of London Vol IV to be sub-titled "The Jackin' Zone" in recognition of disco-jockey Jazzy M's popular programme of that name on the London pirate radio station LWR.

For although hit singles by Steve "Silk" Hurley, M/A/R/R/S, Krush, Nitro Deluxe and the highly successful S'Express have taken House to the heart of the mainstream charts, it remains predominantly a form of music, like hip hop, that is still seeping to the surface through an alternative populist network - part street, part underground.

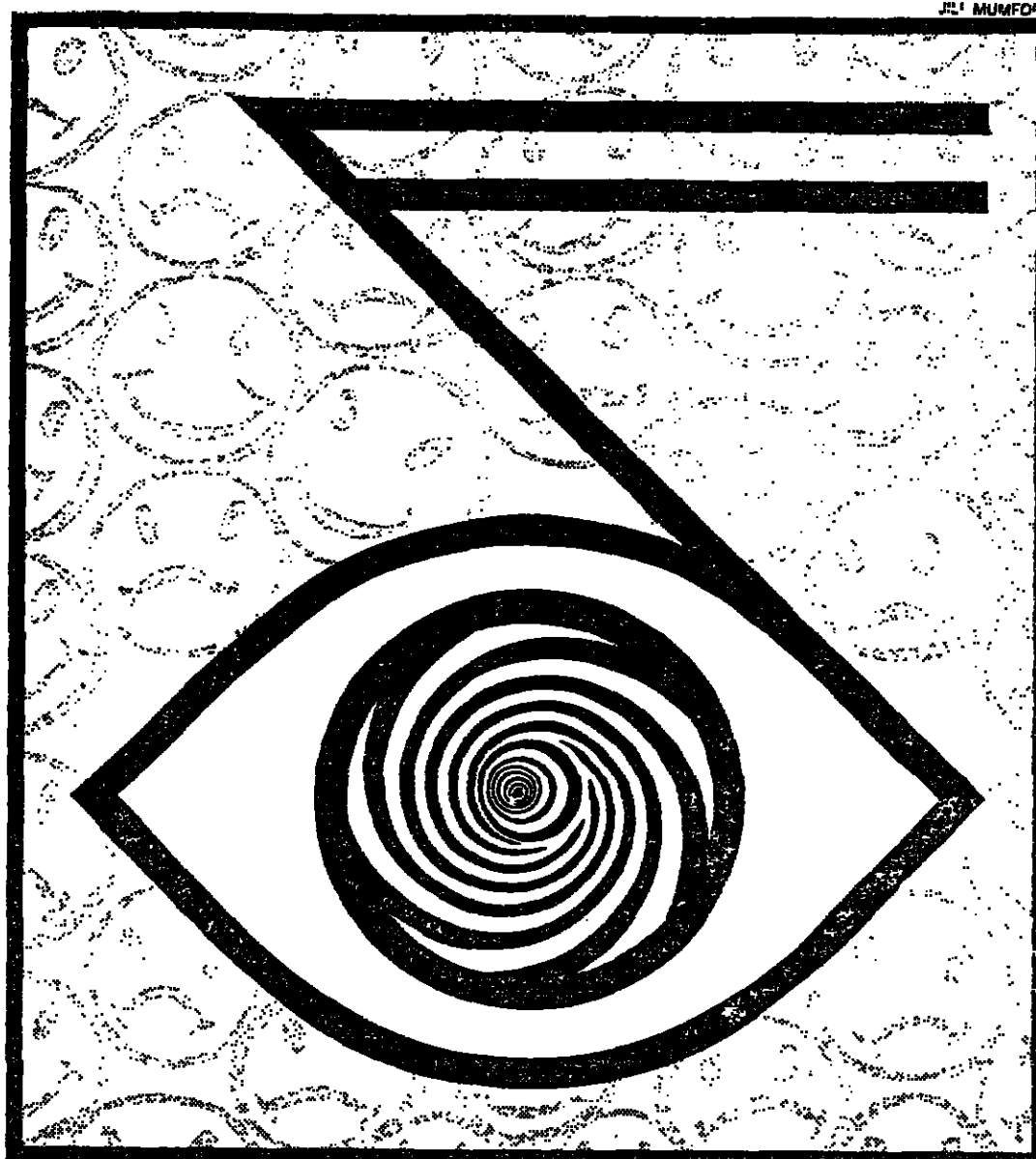
The House Sound Of London is another double compilation featuring a fair quotient of Acid sounds among a relatively varied selection of American imports and contributions from the new wave of UK House acts. A standout track is Harry Thumann's evocative "Underwater", which flows in unpredictable flurries from

Thirties big-band fanfares to neo-Hendrix guitar passages.

Just out, too, Urban Acid, apparently the first British-produced House album, but one which is nevertheless disappointingly lacking in any new perspectives. The American sounds are scrupulously duplicated by such home-grown talents as Charm, Funkacidic and Positiv Noise. As drum machines are programmed, synths are sequenced and snatches of other people's material are "borrowed" to create Acid House versions of "The Twilight Zone" and "Walk On The Wild Side", one wonders how much further the concept of "creating music" remains to be stretched.

Slightly more encouraging is the arrival of Acid Jazz, which is not jazz at all, but is presumably so named because by House standards it is held to be fearfully complicated. Acid Jazz & Other Ilicit Grooves is the first taste of this latest development and, if anything, it sounds like pumped-up electro-funk, or even Washington-style Go-Go. There are regular solos by people playing saxophones and pianos, some occasional singing and a merciful relief from the disco beat.

The picture of Michelle Shocked being brutalized by an American police officer which adorns the cover of her second album, Short Sharp Shocked, is an arresting image, to say the least. But, protest singer or not, it is a shame that she feels the compulsion to erect a visual signpost pointing so firmly towards the agit-prop ghetto, when her music has all the qualities likely to appeal to a very wide audience indeed. This is her first studio record-



JILL MUMFORD

Hammond organ on "Anchorage" dimly recalls the work of Bob Dylan (whom she loathes), while her voice resonates with the clarity and purpose which distinguished that of the young Joan Baez, especially on the crystalline "Black Widow". Whatever her lineage, though, this is a spellbinding and utterly timeless album.

Siouxsie grows more fully into her part as the Isadora Duncan of rock with each passing video and preposterous costume change. Her music retains its peculiarly cold, brooding quality while continuing to defy easy classification (retro-psychedelic goth, perhaps?). Peepshow is the Banshees' eleventh album, and the atmosphere is frosty enough to show up the dotty diva's breath as she calls forth a litany of unpleasant fantasy characters and video-nasty situations in the likes of "Scarecrow", "Listen to his body moan", "Burn-Up" ("King Salamander the benign cremator") and "Rawhead And Bloodybones" ("Reaching from dark cupboard/Crouching under stair").

The dislocated song structures are held together by Budgie's clattery drum parts, which poke through the fabric of music and words like the bones of a skeleton dressed only in top hat and tails. It is commendable that after 12 years of trading, the group is still able to avoid the lure of cliché and instant formula, but this is nevertheless music with a heart of glass.

"The days of Ultravox pomp with little circumstance are over," the press release accompanying Midge Ure's latest offering, Answers To Nothing, trumpets optimistically. Ure, now a well thought-of journeyman rock star, has obviously taken great pains to inject sparkle and weight into these compositions. There is evidence, too, of some hard, post-Band Aid thinking on the way of the world.

Unfortunately, the desire to express worthy sentiments has exacerbated his tendency to concoct lyrical platitudes, and while the pomp may have receded, he still has an unfortunately stodgy way with a tune.

ing, and she has progressed in leaps and bounds from the soulful but necessarily primitive acoustic folk singing of her debut, *The Texas Campfire Tapes*. Much of the credit for the assured feel of this diverse collection must go to the producer Pete Anderson (producer of and guitarist in Dwight Yoakam's band). But it is Shocked

alone who has written nine of the 10 songs and who now reveals the fluency and range of a major-league performer.

With effortless ease, she swoops from the walking bass-line country swing of "When I Grow Up" into the full-blooded rhythm and blues of "If Love Was a Train". There is the poignant autobiographical folk

of "Memories of East Texas", the angry talking-blues narrative of "Gaffiti Limbo" and the sorrowful lament of Jean Ritchie's poem to industrial decay, "The L&N Don't Stop Here Anymore".

Hers is a remarkable distillation of neo-hippie idealism percolated through a gauze of Seventies disillusionment. The swirling

## Now it's time to reassess

## JAZZ

Alan Skidmore Quartet Tribute to Trane (Miles Music MM075)  
Branford Marsalis Random Abstract (CBS 461067)

From New Orleans to New Wave, the hectorically compressed development of jazz in its first 60-odd years gave little time for reflection or re-evaluation - not, at any rate, among its major figures. Whole sub-plots were discarded while still full of potential.

Exhilarating as such a pace might have been, it could not last for ever, and the present period of reassessment is the perfectly natural result, as well as being thoroughly in tune with the mood of many other aspects of contemporary life, from the proliferation of post-modernist architecture to the fashion in moral stances.

Lots of people, though, currently find themselves missing the kind of thrill that they experienced from watching jazz undergoing its bursts of growth. No sort of revivalism, even when trading under the brand-names of neo-classicism and post-modernism, can match that kind of excitement.

It is a particularly weird sensation for those who grew up amidst the heat of the revolution inspired by John Coltrane and Ornette Coleman - when progress was an end in itself and the trad revivalists, the Balls, Barbers and Bilks, were the despised enemy - to find themselves now applauding revivals. Equally unthinkable until recently is the possibility that we are even approaching a time when the idiom's major figures will not also be its innovators.

In this context it is instructive to compare *Tribute to Trane*, in which the English tenor saxophonist Alan Skidmore recreates the mature mid-Sixties style of the late John Coltrane, with the impersonations of Coltrane, Wayne Shorter, Ornette Coleman and Ben Webster that one hears on *Random Abstract*, the latest album by Branford Marsalis, the

gifted and popular young American saxophonist.

The main difference, and it is one which will have a vital bearing on jazz's future, is, of course, or in Skidmore's case, the lack of it. Instinctively, the listener can feel that whereas Marsalis's view of the recent past springs from an intellectual decision that could be revoked or rendered obsolete at any moment, Skidmore's is the product of an organic process resulting from a single-minded commitment.

The Englishman's homage takes seven Coltrane compositions and renders them, with the aid of the pianist Jason Rebello, the bassist Stephen Keogh, in the style of the great Coltrane-Tyner-Garrison-Jones quartet. Nothing special about this: in fact, imitations of that group have been the most over-familiar sound in jazz for more than two decades. The difference here, the factor that raises Skidmore's project way above the general level, is not in the degree of his devotion to Coltrane's spirit (no doubt Courtney Pine, for example, could claim to match that) but in the depth of his understanding and the ability of his technique to translate that understanding into notes.

What we get, then, on something as exciting as the group's version of "Mr. PC" and as moving as its reading of "Lonnie's Lament" (which has the indelible quality of a classic), is not only a perfect surface, but a spiritual

resonance. Skidmore, who grew out of the phase of imitating Coltrane's more obvious mannerisms while Courtney Pine was, quite literally, still in primary school, turns in a majestic performance, avoiding obvious climaxes and displaying a gorgeous tonal range, while the 19-year-old Rebello announces himself as a potential giant, if (and this is, of course, the biggest if of all) he can manage to synthesize his mastery of the styles of Herbie Hancock and McCoy Tyner into a voice of his own.

*Random Abstract* boasts a cuter sleeve design than *Tribute to Trane* (a joyfully wacky beatnik collage versus something that looks like the cover of a personal computer handbook), but that is its only advantage. Branford Marsalis is now stuck fast in the snare of his own technical brilliance - a trap so notably avoided by his younger and more celebrated brother, the trumpeter Wynton Marsalis, whose work has

a profundity that seems alien to the saxophonist's character, and who may, of course, turn out to be the first of those non-innovating major figures mentioned earlier.

Branford is an above-average improviser whose work with the Jazz Messengers and VSOP was often outstanding, but the dull performance of his rhythm section on this album demonstrates that he lacks the spark of leadership. If, for example, one were blindfolded and made to choose between the two pianists, the inexperienced Rebello or the highly rated Kenny Kirkland, on this evidence the decision, undistorted by patriotic zeal, would have to fall in favour of the young Englishman. And that is a judgement which extends throughout almost every aspect of *Tribute to Trane* and *Random Abstract*, making the former one of the outstanding British jazz records of recent times.

Richard Williams



Alan Skidmore: technique with a single-minded commitment

## Recording close encounters

## OPERA

Wagner: Tannhäuser  
Overture; Siegfried Idyll;  
Tristan extracts. Vienna  
Phil./Karajan/Norman (DG 423 613-2)

Doubtless it is the first encounter on record between Jessye Norman and Herbert von Karajan that will sell this disc, and sell it, probably, in large numbers. Miss Norman's contribution is the Liebestod from *Tristan*, seven minutes of rapt and intense singing, with quite a lot of vibrato in the soprano but totally acceptable because it matches the shimmering orchestra. It is not the most passionate Liebestod I have heard, but towards the end soprano and conductor throw everything they have at one another before achieving peace at the close. The orchestra, cynics will note, has the last word - and quite a substantial one at that.

But Karajan is even more impressive in the Act I Prelude, where the elegiac playing make it sound almost a postlude. Karajan's personal farewell to a work he has not tackled for a long time. Perhaps best of all in this hour with Wagner recorded at a live performance in Salzburg (all audience sounds expunged) is the *Siegfried Idyll*. This is a serene and luminous account of a world at peace with itself and Wagner at peace with himself; it was, of course, originally designed as a present for Cosima. There is perhaps more the contentment of autumn than the rustle of spring in this Karajan version, but glorious playing comes from the Vienna Philharmonic. The rumoured disagreements between conductor and orchestra with which this summer's Salzburg Festival closed seem all the sadder when together they perform like this.

A chance to resample Karajan in top form with Wagner comes in the first issue on CD of the Meistersinger he made with the Dresden Staatskapelle in 1970 (EMI CDS 7 49683 2, 4 CDs). This is Karajan is sunny, almost benign mood, one taken up by Rene Kollo's dashing boyish Walter and Theo Adam's clear statement that Sachs still has a bit of adventure left in him. The Eva (Helen Donath) and Magdalena (Ruth Hesse) have been surpassed on other recordings, but it would be difficult to outclass the playing of the Dresden forces. It is curious that they never combined again with Karajan for opera. The recording quality on this CD version is exceptional.

Richard Morrison

John Higgins



Branford Marsalis: stuck fast in the snare of his own technical brilliance; a trap avoided by his trumpeter brother Wynton

## Stylistic 'Messiah' in a volatile truce

## CLASSICAL

Handel: Messiah. Auger, von Otter, Chance, Crook, Tomlinson, English Concert and Choir/Pinnock. Archiv 423 630-1 (2 CDs).  
Beethoven and the Philharmonic. Hanover Band/Roy Goodman. Nimbus NI 5038/9 (2 CDs)

Trevor Pinnock's new interpretation of *Messiah* - the first recording of Handel's score (as opposed to Mozart's orchestration) that the pioneer early-music label Archiv has made in its 40-year history - displays familiar characteristics: a regime of technical perfectionism, well-reasoned stylistic choices, but also a feeling of an uneasy and volatile truce between two contrasting impulses.

For although Pinnock is in the forefront of historical performance, his musical instincts paradoxically often seem to pull him towards the pushier, more romantic approach that original-instrument bands usually shun.

That is most noticeable in the choruses. Pinnock prefers female sopranos, smooth phrasing, wide dynamic ranges; in all these matters he differs from the basic *scattato* articulation of the all-male cathedral choirs favoured in other authentic *Messiah* recordings.

The choral work is immaculately disciplined, often at dizzy pace, and ravishing in timbre - yet one feels something is amiss when the singers' articulation is a good deal more *legato* than that of instrumentalists playing the same notes. Sometimes, too, the singing sounds bland: no spite in "He trusted in God"; no explosion of revolutionary fervour in "Let us break their bonds asunder".

Along with the smoothness goes Pinnock's attitude towards rhythms: gone is the doctrinaire, blanket application of jagged down-

beat-dotted which was fashionable a decade ago. No longer in "For unto us", for instance, does the tenors' rising sequence on "and the government" sound like a series of hiccupps on the way to a hernia. Dignity reigns here: the full quaver upbeat of "Behold the Lamb of God" returns us almost full-circle to the Boult era.

Then there is the orchestral playing: lean, clean textures from original instruments mostly, of course, but often surprisingly weighty in places. Controversially, Pinnock adds horns to a few big choruses, doubling trumpets at the octave, and so fattening the sound: the documentary evidence for this is slender.

The soloists, too, often evoke a bygone era: Howard Crook's restrained work in "Thy rebuke" could easily have been modelled on Richard Lewis (though his fancy ornaments elsewhere are decidedly his own), and both Arleen Auger and Anne Sophie

von Otter sing in a warm, generously nuanced style.

Otter, confined to the lower register, produces remarkable tenderness in "He was despised". The legendary Mrs Cibber, whose performance in 1742 moved one patron to shout "Woman, for this be all thy sins forgiven", could scarcely have interpreted it more beautifully. Other alto arias are assigned, persuasively, to the counter-tenor Michael Chance.

But the real surprise is John Tomlinson. Bayreuth's current Wotan, who sings as if still in Valhalla. This massive voice, majestically secure in the long runs, producing a sepulchral hollowiness in "For behold, darkness", will not suit all tastes in Baroque music, but I found it strangely compelling.

Beethoven and the Philharmonic is Nimbus's two-disc celebration of the Royal Philharmonic Society's 175th anniversary, and it seeks to recreate the

atmosphere of the society's first concert.

Not only do we get an idea of the great length of programmes in the early 19th century (some 137 minutes of music here), their preference for bits rather than wholes, and their disconcerting variety - everything from Beethoven's Fifth Symphony to sung melodrama is included - but also, unfortunately, the playing of the Hanover Band occasionally errs sufficiently for us to appreciate the makeshift nature of those pioneer concerts. But all credit to Roy Goodman for obtaining performances which make up in spirit what they lack in polish.

History is stretched in places: Mendelssohn may have been a child prodigy, but even he would have been pushed to have had his "Italian" Symphony performed in London in 1813, when he was four years old. But the inclusion of the "Italian" (which is much better

played than the Beethoven) is justified on the grounds that Mendelssohn exerted such a strong influence subsequently on the society, and indeed on English musical life generally.

The choral finale from Beethoven's Ninth is also included - how could it not be, when the RPS commissioned it? - but in a rather limp performance. Much more enjoyable are the real oddities: the blazing fanfares of Cherubini's overture to *Anacreon*, the acrobatics of Weber's Horn Concertino (stunningly managed on the natural horn by Anthony Halstead), a quartet from a Sacchini opera, a chaconne from that "inventor of the orchestral crescendo", Niccolò Jomelli, and a bizarre song-drama by Sigiswald Neukomm called *Napoleon's Midnight Review*, almost as uninspired as some of Morrison's midnight reviews.



# Beauty and the frump

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## BOOKS

## Sacred and mundane

Peter Ackroyd believes that Graham Greene's new novel should not be regarded as purely a religious fable

A television reporter who recently helped to expose Manda Elzalde, the discoverer of a "lost" tribe in the Philippines, said of him that "he didn't look like a saviour to me. He looked sleazy". And here, in abbreviated form, we see the essence of Graham Greene's vision — for it is in his novels pre-eminently that the "sleazy" people carry the most significance, that the failures are the ones who reveal the true nature of human desires and aspirations.

This revelation often comes sooner rather than later. In *The Power and the Glory* Greene once declared that "There is always one moment in childhood when the door opens and lets the future in... and, when that fatal door is opened, there generally issues a gust of decay or betrayal. So that *The Captain and the Enemy* opens in a schoolyard when Victor Baxter is 12 years old; he has been running from "his enemies", so early do the twin phantoms of violence and pursuit haunt him. But he is rescued by a friend of his father, who calls himself "the Captain" and who is quickly displayed as a confidence trickster of the more obvious sort. He appears to have won the boy from his father in a game of backgammon, and now he takes him from the school in order to present him to Liza; this young woman has undergone an abortion and her subsequent longing for a child is now easily but mysteriously satisfied — despite Greene's sober tone, this is a mysterious world in which a child can be distributed as a prize in a game.

The removal from a hated school to a shabby basement in Camden Town animates the first section of Victor's autobiographical narrative, and in subsequent parts he slowly begins to unravel the truth about the Captain, about Liza and about the father who yielded him up so willingly. He was a sudden rite of passage, but adult life appears to be no less of an enemy territory than the schoolyard from which he was delivered. "I'm only a bird of passage..." his father says at one point, and in that cheap but always evocative phrase is disclosed an entire grey world of fear and flight. And Victor himself eventually becomes a newspaper reporter, a liar with his own "clever little bit of crookedness".

Greene once quoted from A.E.'s poem, "In the lost childhood of



Judas, Christ was betrayed"; in fact, it might be more apposite to remark that in the lost childhood of Christ, Christ himself was trained to be a victim. From the beginning Victor believes himself to be an "outsider", and nothing which subsequently happens to him can remedy that sinking feeling. Eventually he flies to Panama, where the Captain too has absconded, and it is here that both men meet their destiny.

Greene's world has one pole directed towards reality, in other

*The Captain and the Enemy* by Graham Greene (Rainbird Books, £10.95)

words, and the other towards fantasy. *The Captain and the Enemy* is part thriller and part love story but its bold outlines and broad effects suggest that it is really not a novel, or an "entertainment", but, rather, a fable. Of course it would be easy to describe it as a religious fable since the narrative is liberally sprinkled with theological ref-

erences, easy, but mistaken. "Oh love," Liza says at one point. "They are always saying God loves us. If that's love I'd rather have a bit of kindness." This is a wonderful confession but, even if a kind of morbid monotheism remains Greene's hallmark, this book is less about religion than about the more mundane substitutes for it. Essentially it 'discovers' a world of lies and half-truths, where everyone avoids those "dangerous words which might have opened the door

and let the truth in." Each character here has his own story, including the narrator, and the difficulty of discovering where reality ends and dissimulation begins is an essential component of the mystery at the heart of this book — for in many ways it is a baffling novel, written in a spare prose but containing religious as well as political allusions, seeming to go nowhere in particular but all the time leading the reader forward to revelation.

The only antidote to the lies and the estrangements which characterize this subversive desert seems to lie in love. "Why, it's quite a love story," someone tells Victor Baxter towards the end of this short book. And in a sense it is. Only love can save anyone in the endless sequence of betrayals which comprise the narrative — and those without love, like the narrator himself, are more to be pitied than a confidence trickster such as the Captain who somehow manages to transcend his dismal reality with his permanent and ultimately hopeless affection for Liza.

By the end of the book he has left her far behind — she is dying in a London hospital while he has fled to Panama where he is engaged in helping the Sandinistas against Somoza. His own fate, and that of the narrator, might be dismissed as melodrama, and yet one should never underestimate the importance of what has sometimes been called "the circle of fire". It is the most formidable characteristic of the English novel and, when it is combined with a kind of theatrical humour, melodrama might even be regarded as the key to the nature of the English sensibility.

There is not much humour here — if one has any complaint about the book, it must be that — but this seems to be deliberate calculation on the novelist's part. Victor has gone to Central America in search of his own childhood dream of escape but, as he says of religion, that would be "... a fairy story with an unlikely happy ending". The novelist's vision is grimmer and less easily satisfied. "To be a human being," he once wrote, "one has to drink the truth that is why *The Captain and the Enemy* closes with a suicide, a death, and an endless baffled search for "meaning". Graham Greene published his first novel almost 60 years ago and this, his twenty-sixth, shows no real loss of power.

## The man in scarlet

PAPERBACKS

Oscar Wilde by Richard Ellman (Penguin, £6.99)

Of the three great Irishmen in pursuit of whose lives the biographer Richard Ellman spent so much of his own, only one, Yeats, made any sort of accommodation with the society that engendered him; and even he expressed his oneness in the vocabulary of rebellion.

For the other two, Joyce and Wilde, exile was the natural condition, although none the less painful for its naturalness. In the case of Joyce the exile was more geographical than spiritual, and in that of Wilde more spiritual than geographical; for as Ellman so painstakingly shows us in his last, and sadly posthumous study, Wilde was that most put-upon brand of fugitive, the kind who is first lionized and then irrevocably damned. What a fall was here.

As with his Joyce and his Yeats, it is Ellman's self-imposed burden first to immerse himself in all that has been used by those who went before, from primary sources to literary conjecture and a good deal more besides, and then very slowly, almost diffidently, to step into the depository and begin to construct the shelves for an ordered display. Small wonder that the resulting work was more than 20 years a-growing.

The assumption is always that if the facts are sufficiently thorough, they will conspire towards an eloquence of their own. It is for this reason that Ellman runs the risk of occasionally over-quoting, and under-extrapolating from his sources.

There are three Wildes with whom he is at his best: one in his early adolescence, the second in the languid young manhood of popular perception, and the third, most relentlessly, in the cruel nemesis of the sodomy trial, Reading, and the little that remained thereafter.

We are shown an early letter to his mother written from Portora School in Enniskillen

(later attended by Samuel Beckett) in which he reveals that, at 13, his sartorial preferences were already those of a dandy. His early predilection for scarlet and related tints, says Ellman, was shared with his mother, who is reported as wearing a scarlet dress when in her sixties.

The biographer leaps from this apparently passing observation to a late amendment in *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*, and who is to doubt the relevance of such a linkage? "The last indignity suffered by the condemned man is that he cannot be hanged in his scarlet coat. When it was pointed out to Wilde that the regiment to which the man belonged was the Blues, he offered instant revision: 'He did not wear his azure coat. For blood and wine are blue'."

Ellman's own most ringing words of judgement on Wilde fall in the wake of a remark made by the poet himself when evaluating another life; namely, that the greatest men fail, or seem to have failed. We are reminded that he was speaking of Parnell, "but what was true of Parnell is in another way true of Wilde... we inherit his struggle to achieve supreme fictions in art, to associate art with social change, to bring together individual and social impulse, to save what is eccentric and singular from being sanitized and standardized, to replace a morality of severity by one of sympathy. He belongs to our world more than to Victorian's."

Ellman must surely have known before he died last year that as a biographer he had dodged the corollary of his subject's dictum.

Alan Franks



Singular Salome: Oscar Wilde displays his dress sense

## QUICK GUIDE

The Deputy Literary Editor's selection of paperbacks

Oliver Goldsmith, selected writings edited by John Lucas (Carcanet, £3.95) Mostly remembered for *She Stoops to Conquer*, but he was an adroit, polished poet, of some originality and a unique master of the transferred epithet ("The robe that wraps his limbs in silken sloth"). The best qualities of the 18th century — civility, wit, assurance — mark his essays. Incidentally, "The dog it was that died" is the last line of his poem *An Elegy on the Death of a Mad Dog*.

The Colour of Blood, by Brian Moore (Penguin, £3.95) A Cardinal in an unnamed Iron Curtain country (clearly Poland) escapes assassination attempts and the secret police, but is still torn over political involvement. Excellent novel from this Irish writer, who, without any spiritual puffing and blowing, seems to have inherited Greene's ability to mingle action and suspense with the metaphysical.

It's all writ out for you, by George Melly (Thames and Hudson, £7.95) Jelly-roll Melly on the life and times of Scottie Wilson, a Glaswegian who knocked about the world for 40 years before becoming a naive painter of strangely patterned imaginary creatures.

Chris Petit

## Odd men in

An Anthology from *X* edited by David Wright and Patrick Swift (CUP, £25)

He, especially if respectfully dressed in *la langue française*. Perhaps, she was a splendid antidote to the appalling cultural provincialism of the time. Unfortunately, not much of the French flavour she lent to *X*'s pages has survived in the present anthology.

One of the literary magazine's most valuable tasks is to nurture artists and writers of quality who, for one reason or another, find themselves out of favour with the smarter

pundits. *X*'s record in this respect was admirable, irrespective of whether one agreed with their taste. In painting they supported Frank Auerbach, Michael Andrews, Craigie Aitchison, as well as Freud, Bacon and Bomberg, with Swift proving himself an articulate and hostile opponent to abstract art at a time when such an attitude was regarded as old-fashioned, if not loony. In poetry they tended to go for odd men out — MacDiarmid, Sisson, Brian Higgins, Vernon Watkins, Barker — poets rather out of fashion during the late 1950s, as well as rather less rewarding assorted Frenchmen.

If *X* sometimes appeared, at the time, a magazine for lame dogs or rather bitter outsiders, this anthology, with its useful introduction by its surviving editor, acts as a salutary reminder that contemporary taste is frequently fallible. *X* had its quota of sheep and goats, but the best make a brave show 25 years later.

Alan Ross

## History via fiction

Roberto Rossellini by Peter Brunette (Oxford Paperbacks, £8.95)

opened a breach through which "the entire cinema must pass under pain of death". Rossellini experimented relentlessly, progressing away from documentary, through fiction into history, away from cinema into television, progressing on a technical level too, from the cumbersome tracking equipment needed for a travelling shot to the flexibility of a specially modified zoom lens, invented by himself. He saw his own role as pedagogic; his main importance was, in fact, as a lesson to other film-makers.

Italians such as the brothers Taviani, Ermanno Olmi and Gillo Pontecorvo, took up cinema because of him, and what became the French New Wave made him a key figure in their *politiques des auteurs*, partly, one suspects, because of their admiration of an enviable lifestyle: fast cars, Roman restaurants and Ingrid Bergman. A young Jean-Luc Godard, more infatuated than most, nevertheless recognized Rossellini as no mere "adventurer in celluloid". He is in the inellegant prose of this latest assessment, "perhaps the greatest un-

known director who ever lived". The film critic, David Thomson, more boldly regards him as the Diderot of cinema.

This critical reading of the films, aimed at the American film student, though encyclopaedic in its thoroughness, does not permit such an individual or felicitous interpretation as Thomson's.

As such, biographical data loses out to a survey of European post-war film criticism, a long trek through the polysyllables of higher film theory, leavened by spiky interviews with Rossellini's contemporaries, who settle old scores (one despairs, moans the author, of ever attaining the truth in the "politically charged arena of Italian cinema").

Rossellini's own work is notable for its terseness and ellipses. As much cannot be said of this book, whose stylistic mark is an awkward appendix at the end of a sentence: the actor, George Sanders, we are informed, has, since his death, "been revealed as the desperate and deeply unhappy man he always was"; a pity the author does not scrutinize his own style as closely as he does that of Rossellini.

Chris Petit

## Illusion deals

The Brothers: The Rise & Fall of Saatchi & Saatchi by Ivan Fallon (Hutchinson, £12.95)

Denis Healey erred in imagining that Saatchi & Saatchi had had their own staff pose as a drole queue in the celebrated "Labour Isn't Working" pre-election posters of 1978. The pretend victims of Callaghan's misrule were Young Conservatives from South Hendon. In earlier days prospective clients had made a similar mistake in accepting the busy bees in the agency's Golden Square offices as genuine employees. The house had been papered with passers-by who were handed a bank note each and told to look dynamic.

Self-advertisement, abetted by their costly symbiotic relationship with *Campaign* magazine, was certainly the brothers' most bumptious innovation — and if all advertising is a feat of illusionism, copywriting is a form of graffiti for profit. The most impressive aspect of a slogan such as "The World's Favourite Airline" is not that it should induce even more passengers to fly British Airways but that British Airways should have paid someone for writing it.

"The dog is great," intoned the then Sir John King on first seeing Saatchi & Saatchi's "science-fiction" television commercial for the airline. "It was," he helpfully expanded, "a great idea to have the dog."

The key meetings, phone calls, mega-mergers and high-



Would you be more careful if it was you that got pregnant?

Bump it up: the notorious ad octane spats of the brothers' urge to global corporate power are doggedly logged in a style that makes one despair of contemporary (in other words subject-still-alive) biography. "Probably the most potent force in the Saatchi drive to the top," Fallon concludes, "was their clear singlemindedness."

What do admen do with their profit? Maurice owns a 24ft mahogany speedboat, Charles an unconscionably expensive heap of bricks. Tim Bell, the sometime "third brother" and the star of a campaign widely credited with creating a government out of a shopkeeper's daughter surrounded by counter-jumpers, has this to say: "I work very long hours, and I like to drive to and from work in a lovely car being admired." In such a madhouse of Napoleonic overdrive, this is unexpectedly poignant.

Martin Cropper

## Cloth ear flap

The Lives of John Lennon by Albert Goldman (Bantam, £15)

Albert Goldman's *Elvis* was a thoroughly nasty piece of work which nevertheless forced the reader to pause every now and then in horrified admiration of the author's ability to squeeze the last drop of putrefaction from his tale of ultimate decadence. The opening pages, for example, in which he carried the reader from the gates of Graceland right into Presley's drug chest, had something of the virtuosity of a great cinematographer bringing off a marathon tracking shot.

Mercifully, *The Lives of John Lennon* contains nothing at all that one would wish to praise on the grounds of literary merit. This makes it a much easier book on which to lavish the dislike it deserves for its conflation of half-truth and spiteful speculation. Everything that is true and worth knowing in this book has been published elsewhere before; of the new information, the bulk is inaccurate or unknowable. Despite the author's published protestations, virtually every page betrays his desire to make the story conform to the vilest gossip he and his researchers could dredge up.

Richard Williams

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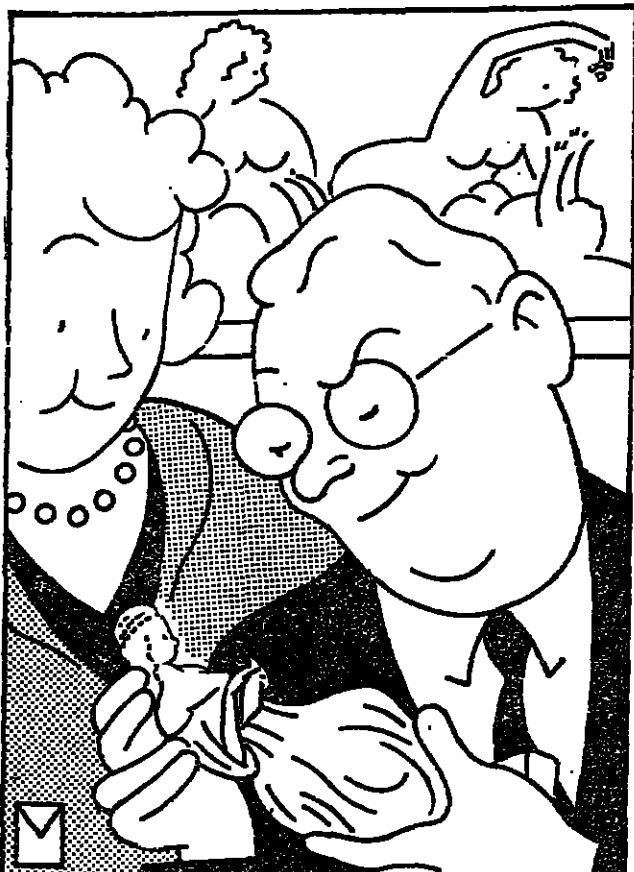
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## COLLECTING

## Cast in marble

Porcelain copies of marble statues  
may not sound like everyone's  
idea of a delight, but Peter Philp  
describes the allure of Parian ware



"This is Hugo's barren," said the owner, "I confess I find his passion for all these snow-white ladies a bit boring. Plaster saints, quite literally - even the ones with no clothes to speak of. And he's paid as much as £20 a go for some of them."

"They're not plaster," said the dealer, "they're Parian porcelain, most of them made between 1845 and 1890 in imitation of marble statuary. Until fairly recently they were cheap enough, and the market is still uncertain, but good examples in perfect condition are now in fair demand. Christie's had the first-ever sale devoted entirely to Parian in June, with many lots selling

Marks raise the price, but a great many Parian pieces are unmarked; the subject is more important

well above the estimates - partly thanks to a Mr Haule of Los Angeles who bought about half of them."

"Quite a haul. Thank goodness Hugo didn't get to hear about it. Was Parian the name of a factory?"

"No. It's simply a type of ware, technically soft-paste porcelain rather like white bisque but with a very thin glaze. Copeland was probably the first firm to perfect it in 1842 with a statuette of Apollo, but Minton were working on it at the same time, and the jury at the Great Exhibition couldn't quite decide who had got there first."

"Where those two the only ones to make the stuff?"

"Eventually, it was produced by Royal Worcester, Charles Meigh of Hanley, John Rose of Coalbrook Dale, William Brownlie of Cobridge, Alcock of Burslem and quite a few more Staffordshire potters including Wedgwood, who made a slightly less translucent version called Carrara."

"Some of Hugo's hours have factory marks, but not all of them. Does that mean they're second-rate?"

"Marks help to raise the price, but a great many Parian pieces are unmarked, and the subject is really more important."

"It certainly is to Hugo. Nothing but classical cuties for him. Is that all they ever made?"

"By no means. It's true that a couple of dozen versions of 'Venus' were produced - Copeland alone made six different ones - but the range included jugs with moulded patterns that sell for £100 or less,

ornamental vases that cost rather more, as well as figures and busts of historical characters such as Robert Bruce, Wellington and Queen Victoria. A seated figure of her made £170 at the auction."

"Hugo wouldn't be amused by her. Even this young woman in her Grecian nightgown looks a bit overdressed for his taste. I'm surprised she gained admittance to the collection."

"Perhaps because she has the Copeland mark impressed on the base, and the signature of the sculptor who carved the original - Patrick Macdowell. He also created one of the most popular subjects - Eve."

"Much more Hugo's style. How were they made?"

"They were really scale models of full-size statues that were commissioned from leading sculptors - Foley, Bell, Wyatt, Gibson among them - some of whom supplied hand-carved miniatures of the originals. After 1850, a machine patented in 1844 by Benjamin Cheverton was used to carve an accurate, miniature version in alabaster. From that, moulds were taken for casting the porcelain in sections. Due to shrinkage in the kiln, the final result was further reduced in size by about a third, so something that started as a six foot marble statue might result in a Parian figure less than a

Something that started as a six foot marble statue might result in a Parian figure less than a foot high

foot high, but with every detail exact."

"What does the word Parian mean, exactly?"

"The island of Paros provided the white marble most highly prized by the Greeks, and the Hellenic ideal of beauty was much admired by the Victorians. Copeland copies of Hiram Power's Greek Slave sold by the thousand."

"That's a bit off, isn't it? Figures of Wellington and the Queen Empress, yes; but all those nude statues in the Victorian parlour..."

"Not to mention the vice of gambling. Figures inscribed Art-Union of London were commissioned as prizes in a lottery. The Victorians weren't quite such prigs, or such philistines, as some of us used to imagine."

"Well, perhaps not. Now I come to look at Hugo's little collection more closely, they do have the sort of chaste charm one associates with the jollier kind of cemetery. Shall I get him a Greek Slave for his birthday?"

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## TRAVEL

# Joining in the battle for France

Searching for the past in France, Robin Neillands explores the frontier towns of the Hundred Years War in the Dordogne, visits Cathar strongholds in the Pyrenees, and finds more recent echoes on Normandy's D-Day beaches

You travel in two directions on a history holiday, forward through space, backward through time. From a villa near Siorac-en-Perigord, it was just a short drive across the river to the little towns of Villereal and Montpezat, but the journey took me back 600 years or more, to the days of the Hundred Years War.

English history books choose to forget that the French won but the local people celebrate the victory each summer

square for a market or a garrison muster, and a fortified church. Today they are tourist attractions; during the Hundred Years War they staked out the frontier between France and Aquitaine, and are still evocative of that period of medieval history.

The same is true of the whole Dordogne, where almost every town contains an echo of those distant times. Libourne was built by an English knight, Roger de Libourne; King John Lackland gave St Emilion its first charter; the castle of Montfort was owned by the family of Simon de Montfort, and the last battle of the Hundred Years War was fought at Castillon, near Bergerac. English history books choose to forget that the French won but the local people celebrate the victory each summer with a great pageant and much son-et-lumière.

I drove up and down the river, popping in and out of castles and walled towns, which is easily done from any base along the Dordogne, but those who prefer a more structured holiday with an historical theme, with a set route and guides provided, have a wide choice of trips available in many beautiful parts of France.

One popular route is the ancient

Pilgrim Road to Compostela from Le Puy to the Pyrenees, which is now a footpath, the GR65 on that great footpath network of the Grande Randonnée. The road to Compostela from Le Puy, which dates from the 10th century, is followed today by many walkers, cyclists and travellers.

Those who want to follow the old road exactly should contact the Confraternity of St James, 57 Leopold Road, London N28 8B9, which publishes a series of informative guidebooks to the road and gives lots of helpful advice. Waymark Holidays, 289 Lillie Road, London SW6 (01-385 5015), offers walking holidays along the GR65 footpath, Le Chemin de St Jacques, from Le Puy to Conques, lasting 14 days and costing from £448, including half-board and a guide.

Moving on several centuries and shifting slightly south, that excellent little company, Inntravel of Hovingham, have zeroed in on the Albigensian Crusade, which ravaged France in the 13th century, when the King of France and Simon de Montfort tried to exterminate the heretical Cathars.

The Inntravel tour, suitably enough, is on horseback, riding round the old Cathar strongholds in the foothills of the Pyrenees, through such pretty places as Costillou, Puyvert, Quillan and Arques. Day One is spent assessing ability and patting Brother Horse, but after that it is trail-riding through the Pyrenees with night-stops in small gites... sounds entrancing. Prices, excluding flights, start at £228 for seven days. Full details and brochure from Inntravel, Park Road, Hovingham, York YO6 4JZ (0653 82741).

Travelling north, and into the 14th century, my visit to the 1356 battlefield at Poitiers, where our Black Prince beat and captured their King John, was enlivened by the appearance of a large (and friendly) French group led by a lady dressed as Eleanor of Aquitaine, complete with pointed hat and wimple... a little out of period perhaps, but they do these things better in France.

The Plantagenet rule in Anjou, Poitou and Normandy is well covered in a series of history tours offered by Plantagenet Tours of Bournemouth. Their "Eleanor of Aquitaine" tour begins in Rouen and covers Bayeux, Mont-St-Michel, Chartres, Poitiers, and the Plantagenet Mausoleum at Fontevraud near Saumur, which contains the effigies of Henry II of England, Eleanor his wife, their

son Richard Lionheart and Isabelle of Angoulême, the much-neglected wife of King John. Full details from Plantagenet Tours, 85 The Grove, Moordown, Bournemouth BH9 2TY (0202 521895).

The Loire is full of historic towns and exquisite Renaissance châteaux, visited by hordes of tourists each summer, but those who prefer something medieval could try following the *Routes Roi René* around Anjou. Good King René was the father-in-law of our Henry VI and managed to be Duke of Anjou as well as the King of Naples and Jerusalem.

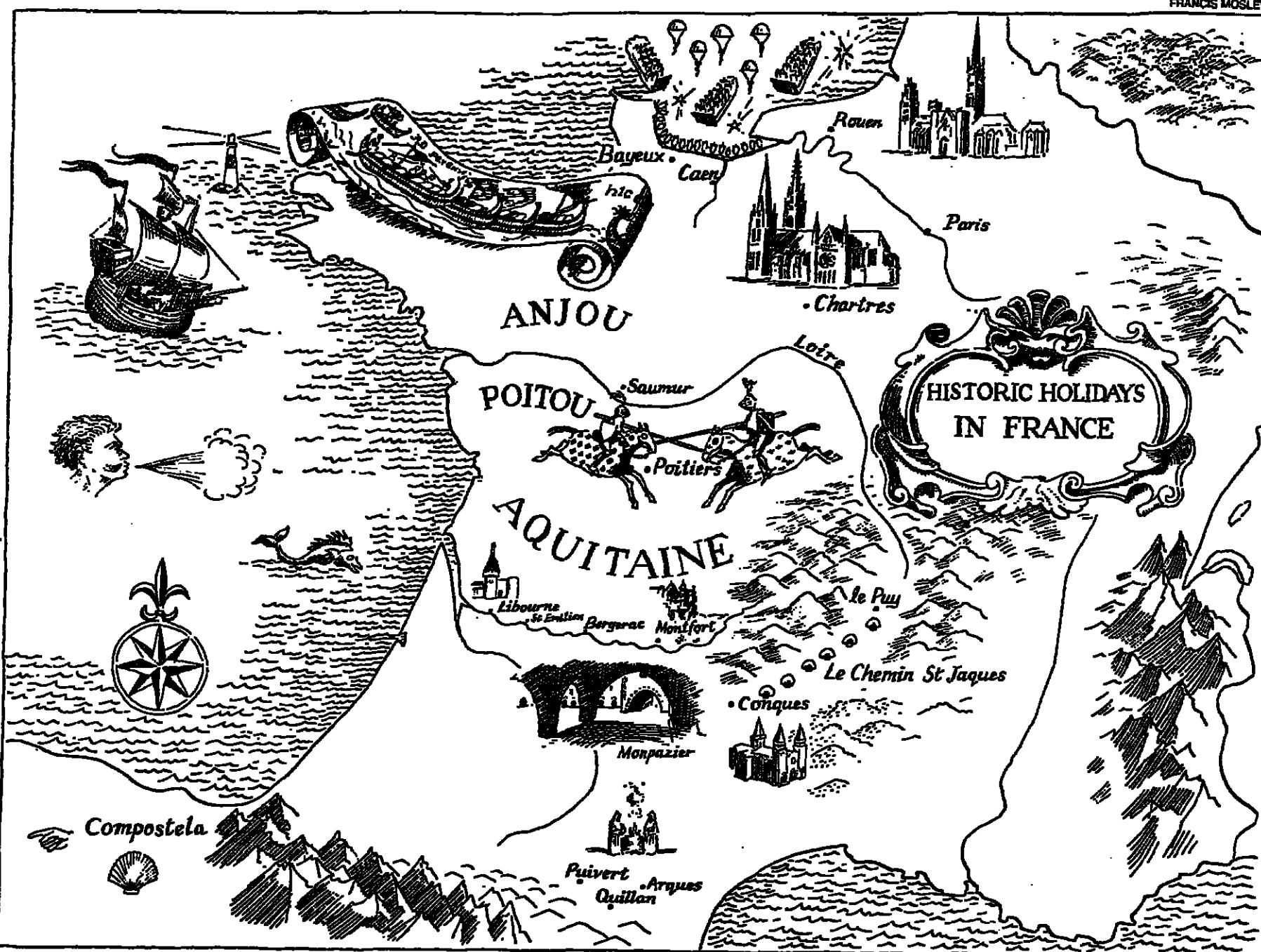
This historic trail visits a great number of magnificent castles and great houses in Anjou, where the tourist coaches rarely go. Full details of the *Routes Roi René* can be obtained from the French Government Tourist Office, 178 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AL (01-491 7622), or the Comité du Tourisme de l'Anjou, Place du Château, 49000 Angers, France (010-33 4188 2385).

Finally, moving on to almost

yesterday, we come to the Second World War. Two old soldiers' organizations, from the Commandos and the Parachute Regiment, have now opened up history trails along the D-Day coast of Normandy, taking in the landing beaches, the scenes of subsequent operations and the various museums and memorials.

The Commando Trail follows the routes taken by Army and Royal Marine Commando units from their landing beaches between Port-en-Bessin and the eastern end of Sword Beach at Ouistreham, to their positions behind the Orne at Ranville and Salenelles.

At Bénouville, on Pegasus Bridge, the Commando Trail links up with the Pegasus Trail, the road of the D-Day paratroopers, which begins on Pegasus Bridge and proceeds via various memorials and old battlefields to Merville, Troon and the new Musée de La Paix, which was opened on June 6 1988, 44 years after D-Day, in the city of Caen.

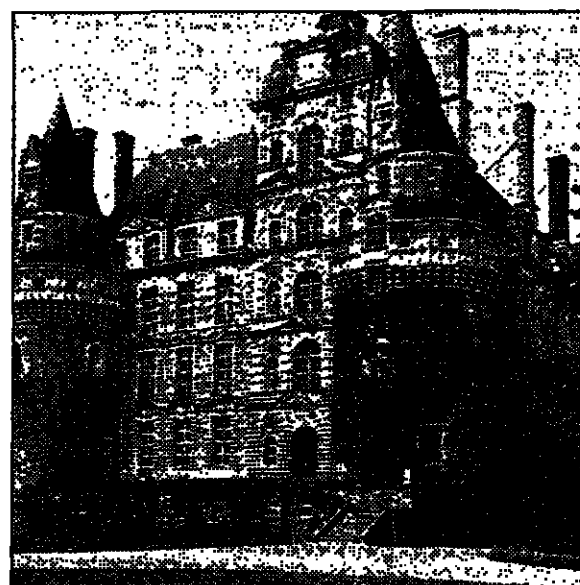


## TRAVEL NOTES

Brittany Ferries have daily sailings from Portsmouth to Oubstreham on Sword Beach. A four-night car break to Caen/Ouistreham with Brittany Ferries in September costs from £98 per head for two adults, including crossing and accommodation. Full details from Brittany Ferries on 0705 82770. For Pegasus and Commando Trails contact Brittany Ferries Information Bureau, 6 Burnell St, London SW3 3ST (01-836 5885).

Villa holidays in the Dordogne are available from VFB, 1 St Margaret's Terrace, Cheltenham GL50 4DT (0242 526338). Companies offering history holidays in France include Swan Hellenic Art Tours, 77 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1PP (01-831 1818); Ace Study Tours, Balafrum, Cambridge CB2 4AP (0223 83055); Major & Mrs Holt's Battlefield Tours, The Golden Key Building, 15 Market Street, Sandwich CT13 9DA (0304 812248); Martin Middlebrook's Battlefield Tours, 48 Linden Way, Boston PE21 9DS (0205 84555); Milestone Tours, 100 Outram Street, Sutton-in-Ashfield NG17 4FS (0623 517275).

A full list can be found in *The Traveller in France*, free from the French Government Tourist Office, 178 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AL (01-491 7622).



Charm of the chateau: still the lure of the Loire

## Break for the bargains

Airline stopover packages offer some of the world's finest hotels for the cost of bed and breakfast accommodation in London.

Take the example of Singapore's de-luxe Mandarin hotel. A twin-bedded room without breakfast at this hotel located in the heart of the Orchard Road shopping area normally costs (after adding the mandatory service charge/tax) \$518.50 or £53.60 at current rates of exchange. That price in itself

is a bargain (and a direct result of Singapore's glut of top hotels) yet a twin room at the same hotel can be booked by Singapore Airlines (SIA) passengers for £28 a night including service/tax for two people. SIA's rate represents a 50 per cent discount, but that is not the end of the story. The

airline adds return airport/hotel transfers (worth £14), a full breakfast for two (worth £16) a free sightseeing tour for two (worth around £16), and discounts on shopping and car rental. Looked at another way, the hotel is free with SIA's stopover package. The airlines

## FARE DEALS

design stopover packages to fill aircraft seats. They are offered at most major destinations worldwide but the keenest deals can be found in the Asia/Pacific region. Generally speaking, an airline will offer the best value packages at its home base. So just as SIA has mouth-watering offers in Singapore and Malaysian Airlines (MAS) likewise in Malaysia, British Airways offer its foreign customers keen deals when they fly to London.

Stopover packages appeal to round-the-world passengers and to all travellers taking really long flights, for example from London to Australia. Stopping for a few days en route breaks up tedious flights and lessens the severity of jet lag.

These packages are not standardized. The deals of-

fered vary from airline to airline, and place to place. In most cases, the price includes the accommodation, breakfast, service charge and tax. In addition, many airlines provide return airport/hotel transfers, sightseeing tours and various discounts on shopping and car hire.

Minus points? You are tied to one airline's schedules and must be sure enough of your plans to pre-book and pre-pay because cancellation and amendment fees are hefty.

The hotels featured range from budget to world famous de-luxe properties, with the biggest savings available on top hotels rather than on two or three star accommodation. When comparing prices remember that the stopover package includes many of the "hidden extras". So in Bangkok, Qantas's stopover rate of £106 a night for two at the famous riverside Oriental (a hotel consistently voted one of the world's best) might seem rather steep. But when you consider that Qantas's rate covers service charge/tax, full breakfast, transfers and a 6pm late-check-out (a facility worth more than £70) then it is a bargain, bearing in mind that London's top hotels charge £200 a night for a room. Other historical hotels featured include the colonial

Raffles in Singapore — available with Qantas for £36 a night twin-room or £122 if you book four nights — and the Manila Hotel in Manila which costs £35.30 when booked through Philippine Airlines (PAL).

Cathay Pacific offers Hong Kong "Stopover" packages. This autumn (a time when high season rates apply) a twin room at the Excelsior in the Causeway Bay shopping district will set you back £66 for the first and £42 for each extra night — compared to the normal price of £95.10. MAS is one of the most generous. The airline's "Malaysia Stopover" programme covers both major cities and smaller unsung destinations. For places awkward to reach by public transport, for example Pangkor Island, MAS throws in special transfers.

Alex McWhirter

The author is travel editor of *Business Traveller*

SIX GOOD STOPOVER DEALS			
Destination (hotel)	Typical rate per night for twin room	Stopover price for 2 persons**	Airline
Bangkok (Oriental)	Bht 6,171/£143.50	£110 1st night £106 extra nts	Qantas
Hong Kong (Excelsior)	HK\$ 1,265/£95.10	£86 1st night £42 extra nts	C Pacific
Manila (Manila hotel)	\$154.60/£90.95	£35.30 1st night 7 extra nts	PAL
Penang (Golden Sands) sea view room	M\$ 287.50/£53.60	£38 1st night £44 extra nts	MAS***
Singapore (Mandarin)	S\$ 186.50/£53.60	from £28	SIA
Sydney (Holiday Inn)	A\$ 290/£136.80	A\$ 173/£81.60	Qantas

Note: All hotels shown are four/five star properties. Single rooms are also available. \*\* Rate includes service/tax also breakfast and transfers at most destinations. \*\*\* Price includes free flights to/from Kuala Lumpur, check with MAS for details.

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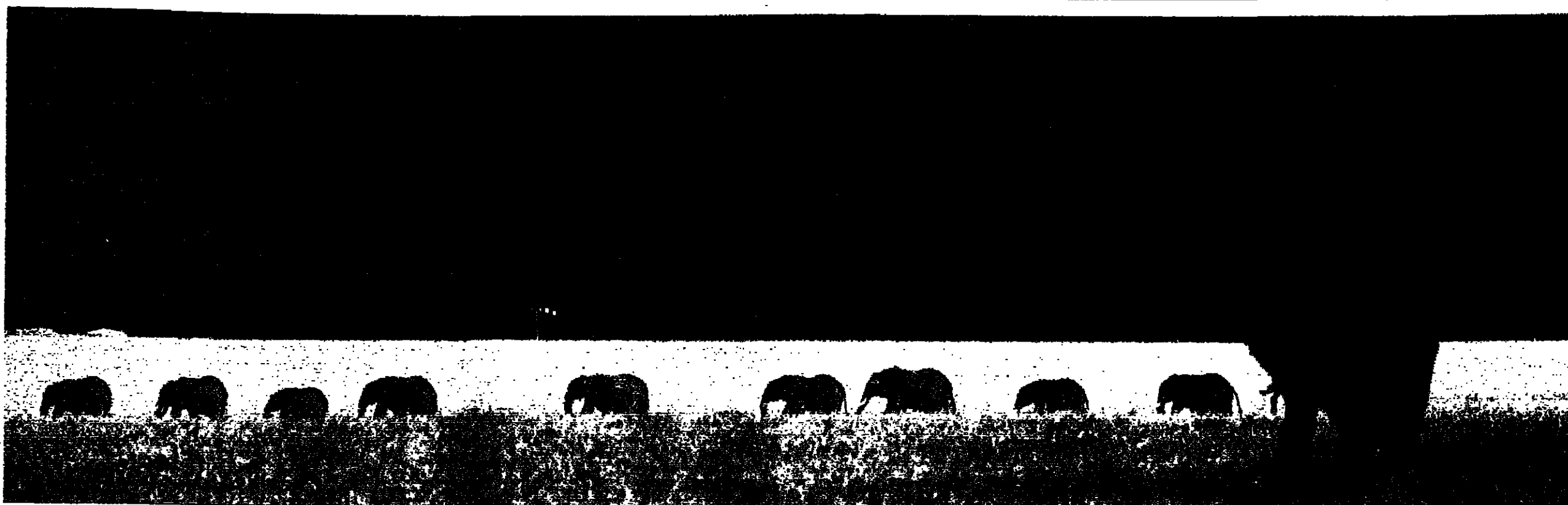
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## TRAVEL 3



Plain tails: in the Masai Mara Game Reserve jumbos stroll near a bush air strip, where at an altitude of 5,000ft the climate is comparatively temperate and animals, including bad-tempered buffalo, are spectacularly plentiful

# In the land of the big red taxi

In the vast grasslands of the national parks, and the humid hustle of Mombasa, Bryan Appleyard finds that 'jambo' is the answer to everything

Miss Lillian drives an ancient scarlet Mercedes taxi up and down the long, straight Mombasa-Malindi road. Most of the interior fittings have gone, as has the power steering, so the slight and very glamorous Miss Lillian has to use what strength she has to drag the two tons of blazing red metal around the potholes that come as standard on any African road. She moans and curses as she does so. Like all the local taxi-drivers, she only ever puts enough petrol in to get her through the next trip. So every journey from the Dolphin Hotel to Mombasa was a gamble on whether two litres of four star could power the old banger for the duration. But she was cheap and safe and she knew everybody.

If you do make it, Mombasa is an acquired taste. But it is one that should come easily to anybody who likes taking a sauna in their clothes in the company of several hundred people all intent upon selling you a bag of macadamia nuts. Humidity is high, the street hustlers are relentless and the traffic lethal. In an emergency, head for the Hindu temple or Fort Jesus; the first is one of the few Mombasa buildings that does not appear to be in imminent danger of falling down and the second, built by the Portuguese in the 16th century, now houses a decidedly cool and hustler-free museum.

But Kenya's second city is really one for the Afrophiles. The more conventionally inclined will only visit the place because they happen to be staying at one of the beach hotels — like the Dolphin — that line the coastline running northward. These are the forts of post-colonialism. Built and run largely by the Germans and the Swiss, they have thrived on Kenya's relative political stability and her Government's cautious willingness to co-operate with European travel companies. In most neighbouring countries, tourism has been brutally kicked in the teeth. But the Kenyans need hard currencies and they don't come much harder than the Swiss franc.

Which is one reason why the Swiss-based African Safari Club is one of the main operators of the North Mombasa Hotels. They fly 50,000 Swiss and Germans in a year and have created a sizeable local population of hotel staff, taxi-drivers and hangers-on speaking a weird combination of Swahili, German, French and English. Since Swahili was a composite language in the first place, the resulting linguistic stew can be startling. The word 'jambo', however, which technically only means 'hello' but seems to contain a multitude of ancillary associations, covers most eventualities.

'Jambo,' says every passing Kenyan.

'Jambo,' you reply and everybody is happy.

Unlike the Empire Brits, the new Euro-colonists have

loads of money and they do not run the country. Now, however, things have begun to change. As one ASC executive said, 'your Mrs Thatcher' has put enough cash in our pockets to make marketing their holidays over here worthwhile. So in the post-colonial era, the British are being invited back. ASC is flying from Stanstead to Basle to link up with their flights to Mombasa.

ASC runs a variety of safaris from its hotels, varying in length from one and a half days to one week. Costs range from £162 to £611. We took the three-day Mara Simba Safari. This involved a two-hour flight in a Twin-Otter round Mount Kilimanjaro to the Masai Mara Game Reserve. Thanks to an altitude of over 5,000 feet, the climate here is fairly temperate.

The accommodation — at the Mara Buffalo Camp — is superb. You are given a hut or a sort of roofed tent, both of which manage to be comfortable and yet appropriately daring. The camp is bordered by a fast-flowing river on one side and a stream on the other. You are warned to cross neither as, outside, innocent-looking bushes can conceal the gratuitously ugly and fearfully bad-tempered buffalo, one of the few animals in the reserve that is considered likely to attack humans.

That being said, we were twice quite seriously threatened by irate elephants while on safari. Both times our driver, Joseph, displayed unnerving signs of alarm. But, otherwise, snakes run away, lions and cheetahs don't care and, sadly, poachers have left only two rhinos in the Mara. The scenery alone is worth the trip. The flat grasslands and gentle hills of the Mara stretch for miles. Visible distances are unnervingly vast and the silence, when the LandCruisers pause, is total but for the steady breeze that blows more or less constantly through the grass.

Animals are spectacularly plentiful. Prides of around 20 lions pay no attention whatsoever as you park next to them. Giraffes are there in epidemic proportions, elephants are rarer and more bad-tempered, you are likely to see a cheetah within the first couple of hours, and, of course, there are vast herds of wildebeest, zebra, gazelle, antelope, all usually accompanied by warthogs. The sheer numbers are stunning and, if you go in August, the entire Mara is black with up to two million migrating wildebeest.

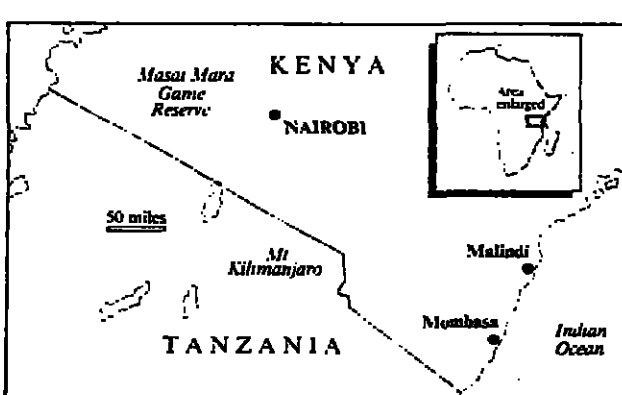
Joseph's eyesight was extraordinary. 'Big Simba!' he would cry, gesturing at some vaguely tawny dot amidst the grass about a mile away. I had taken it for a speck on my sunglasses; but, sure enough, it is a full grown male lion prowling disconsolately with three buddies, all looking as bored as only lions know how.

Food at the camp is no better than OK. But there is a

surreal frisson after dinner. Camp guards, swinging Masai clubs, escort you back to your hut or tent. The surreal touch is that they are clad in Swiss Army greatcoats, bought by ASC as a job lot to protect its local staff from the chilly Mara night air.

Back at the Dolphin food is again okayish. Nevertheless, the Dolphin is the best — and most expensive — hotel ASC offers. It is immaculately run and the beach, but for the inevitable hustlers peddling cheap safaris and fake Masai woodwork, is flawless.

The Dolphin also has a superb restaurant if you are paying for deluxe or special service — this, incidentally, also gets you a sunbed, essential when among Germans



who sneak out at 3am and reserve them with towels.

But, for the best local food, get Miss Lillian to take you to the Tamarind. This hangs on a cliff overlooking Mombasa. Service is very unKenyan in

that it is sophisticated and efficient and the food is, to say the least, challenging. A bib is tied around your neck and huge crabs in wooden bowls are smashed before your eyes. For the more squeamish there

is excellent lobster, something of a rarity in Kenya, where the local variety tends to taste rather muddy. It is, according to all the guidebooks, the best restaurant in Kenya and it is certainly better than almost anything between the Charing Cross Road and Regent Street. Less overpowering is the Sea Haven, a mile from the Dolphin, and, again, superbly situated on a cliff top. Food here is unpretentious but generally better than the hotel.

But, the safari apart, the best and most memorable part of the trip is the heady African social mix. Daily *The Nation* newspaper comes into your room, slavishly to report the triumphs of President Moi, yet at the same time undercutting them with the evident

poverty and uneasy industrialization that lurks behind the advertisements and the less programmed stories. Kenya is struggling with economic development as if it were an ill-fitting suit of clothes.

Cheap hustlers and smart waiters alike come from this land to confront wealthy Europe in the restaurants and on the beaches. The result is friendly incomprehension, occasional awkwardness and a kind of persistent comedy of manners. Meanwhile, in the midst of this strange, stilted atmosphere, there are oddities like John Hope. Born to a white colonial family in Nairobi, now, in his mid-thirties, he works as a trouble-shooter

for ASC. But, on Friday nights, go to the Starion night club. There Big John puts on a glittery shirt with puffed sleeves, tight trousers and becomes a reincarnated Elvis. He takes to the stage accompanied by Miss Kenya 1987 and the Shady Haze rock band.

Then, for two hours, two Englishmen and a Kenya woman sing American rock 'n' roll to an audience of Swiss and Germans. In Kenya only the lions seem unfused.

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African Safari Club holidays can be booked through Equator Holidays, 35 Thayer Street, London W1M 5LH (01-466 4595). Humidity on the Kenya coast is highest in May and lowest in January and February.

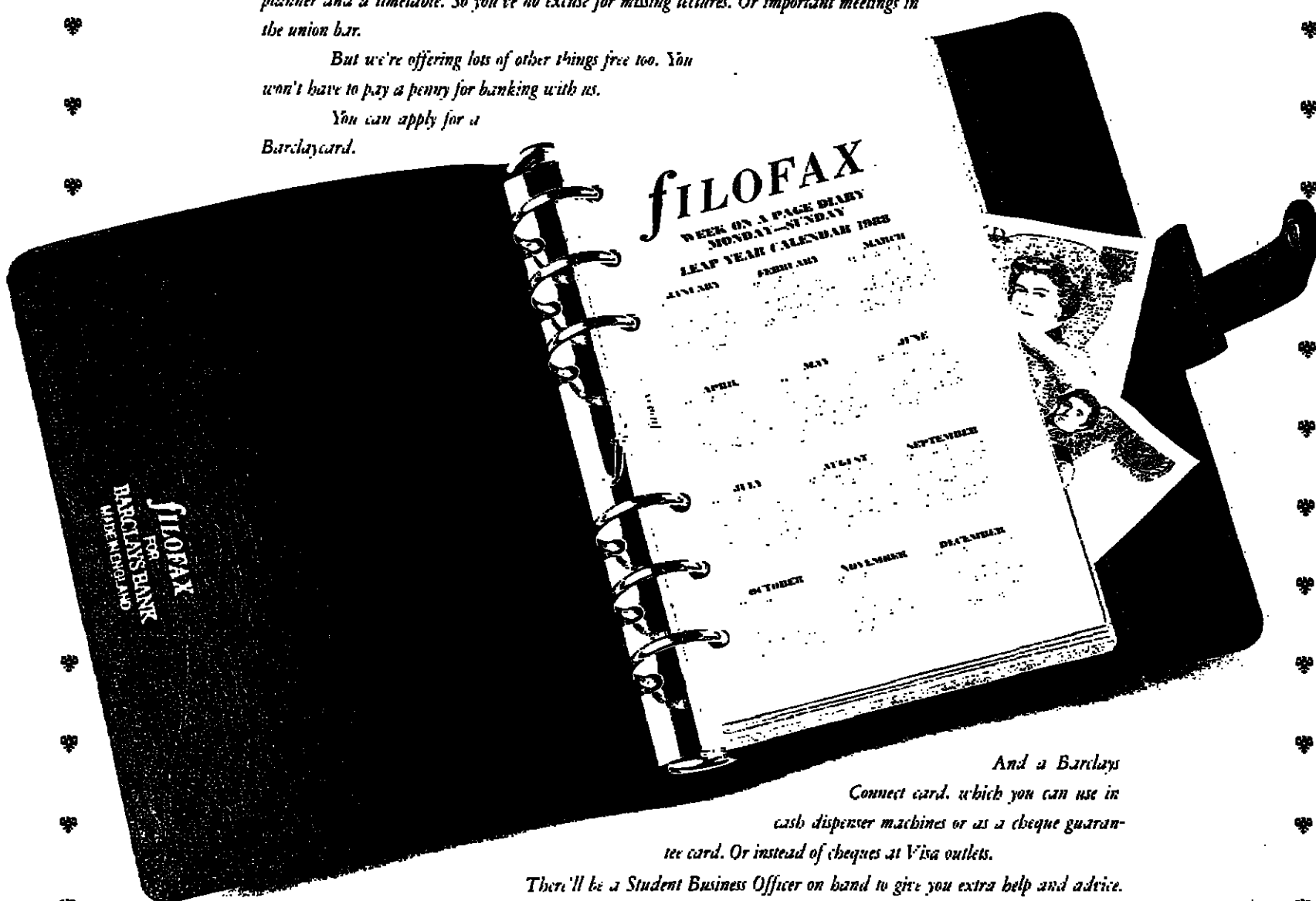
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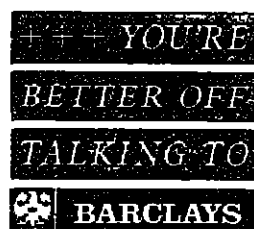
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Down on the coast at Mombasa: fishing dhow







## May grants Cowdrey no favours

## May grants Cowdrey no favours

# Bruno is handed delay by Tyson

CHRIS COL

## Neale struggling to make final

**Mike Gatting and Graeme Hick profiles, page 50**  
**Match preview and statistics, page 51**

# Seeds fall on hard ground

**Serving his purpose:** Cabill's well-organized game proved enough to beat the ailing Becker.

## Pointers from New Zealand

## United they must stand

## Substitute ride for Whitaker

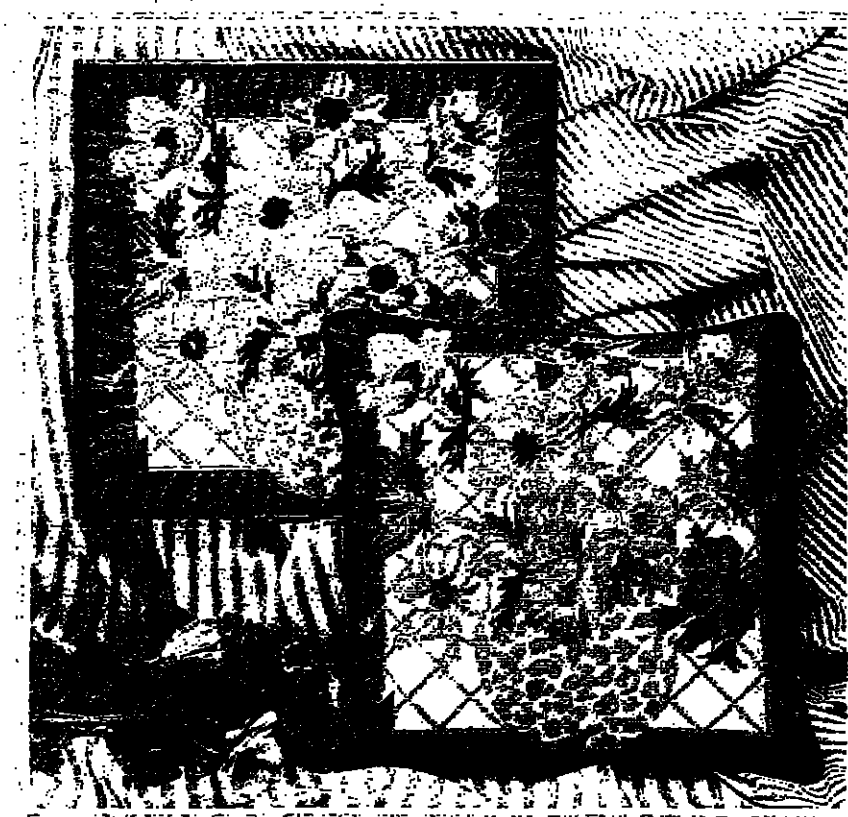
Cram's setback has led William Hill to suspend betting on both the 800 and 1,500 metres events.

## Ticket mix-up on Kop

The match has been hit by crowd violence in recent years. In 1986 Manchester United players were attacked with CS gas as they arrived at the Anfield ground. Their team

## Cram going to training camp

Cram's setback has led William Hill to suspend betting on both the 800 and 1,500 metres events.



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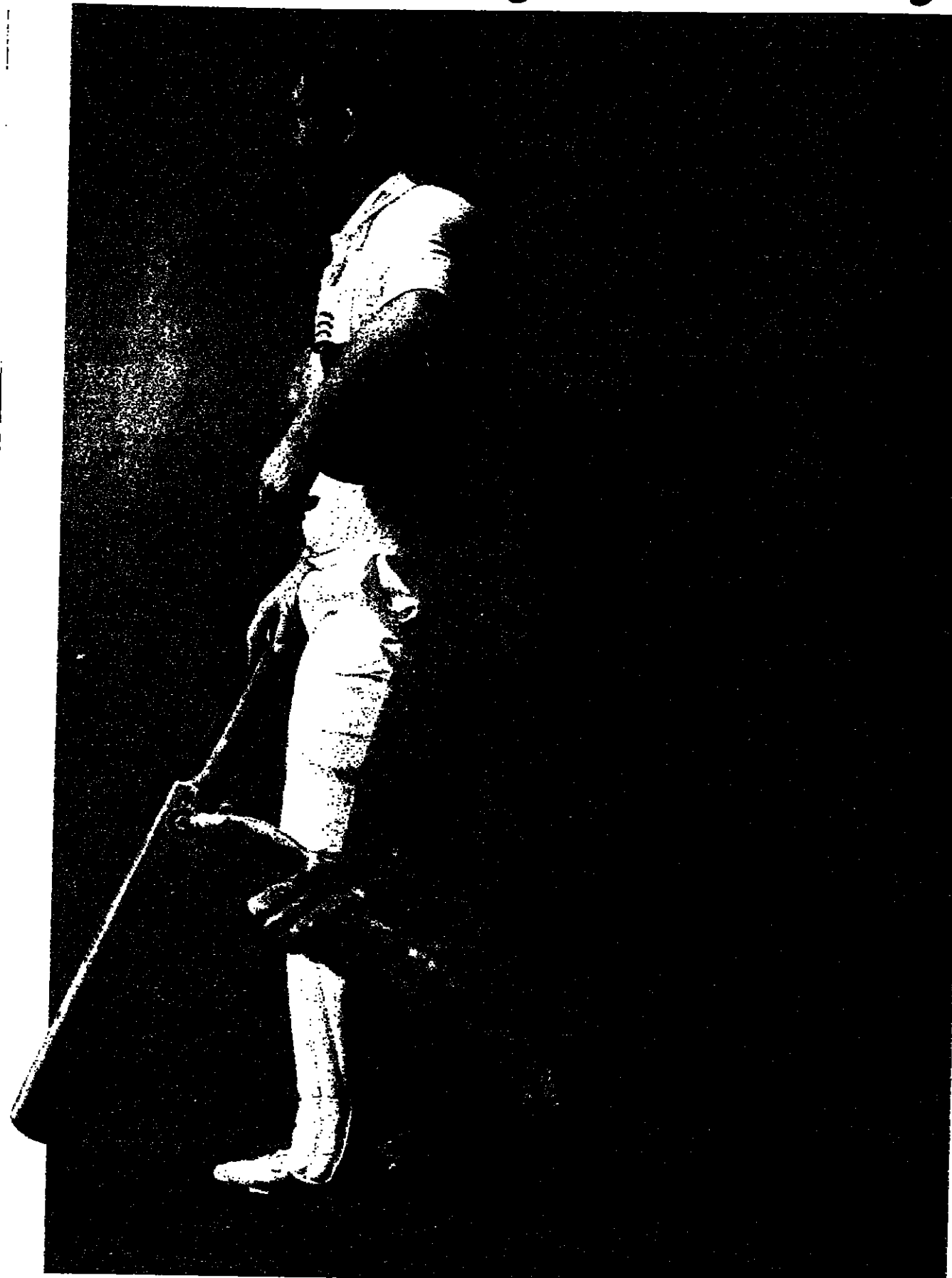
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## MATCH OF THE DAY

Today's NatWest Trophy final at Lord's involves two cricketers for whom the summer of 1988 will evoke memories of triumph and disgrace

# Yesterday's martyr, tomorrow's hero



After a wretched summer, Mike Gatting seeks consolation in a one-day trophy. John Woodcock argues that, however low the reputation of Middlesex's captain has fallen, England could do with more like him

It would take a hard man not to be pleased for Mike Gatting if Middlesex should carry off the Nat West Trophy at Lord's today. No cricketer can ever have had a more traumatic, more turbulent year, and whatever view one may have taken of his various exploits, it is time the sun shone on him.

It is not easy, without living and travelling with a team, to comprehend the pressures that are now borne upon them. Of an England captain, in charge of a man-of-war side, qualities are required which have nothing to do with where the fielders should stand, and who should bowl the next over. You need patience and understanding, and it helps to be humble; you have, at once, to be a benevolent dictator and fit enough not to trail in last from the laps round the ground.

The World Cup in India and Pakistan last autumn made such demands on the equilibrium and stamina of the players as would have tested even the Prime Minister. The noise and enormity of England's semi-final against India in Bombay were of a kind that our fathers could never have envisaged. Calcutta came next, then Lahore and Karachi, and Faisalabad, and then Sydney and Melbourne and Auckland and Christchurch and Wellington and Edgbaston and Trent Bridge and Marshall and Richards and Greenidge and numbness and madness and soreness and sourness.

That Mike Gatting snapped late one afternoon in Faisalabad, under much provocation, was human enough, however lamentable, however stubborn his subsequent behaviour. He no more aspired to the England captaincy when he first played for Middlesex in 1975 than did Fatsy Hendren or Jim Sims or "Young Jack" Hearne. It is ironic, at a time when the job is more demanding than ever before, that it gets passed around among players to whom the stress is prejudicial and by whom the responsibilities are not always fully perceived. Such is egalitarianism.

Fortunate to go to a primary school at Willesden where cricket was played, and then to the John Kelly's High School

at Cricklewood, where the deputy headmaster arranged for him to get some games elsewhere, Gatting was very soon a rising star. As an 11-year-old, in 1968, he scored 102 not out for Wykeham Juniors against Stonebridge Juniors, when the next best score was 3. At 14, he got 100 in 110 minutes against G. H. G. Duggart's Public Schools XI, echoing the 114 which Denis Compton made for the Elementary Schools against C. F. Tufnell's XI at Lord's in 1932.

As the Middlesex coach, Don Bennett soon got to hear of Gatting, and he has been, ever since, a faithful supporter. When, through the committee room window at Lord's, Sir George (Gubby) Allen watched Gatting make 30-odd for the England Under-19s against West Indies Under-19s in 1974, he said to Bennett: "Well, I haven't seen enough to know quite how good he is, but I'll tell you something—he's got a hell of a lot of courage." The groundsman was trying out a re-laid pitch for the match, and it was nasty, and Gatting was much battered about by a young Wayne Daniel.

Having just established himself in the Middlesex side of 1976, which was on its way to winning the county championship, it was with some reluctance that Gatting left them in late July to tour West Indies with Young England. There he headed the batting averages from two other future England captains, Christopher Cowdrey and David Gower, and he took the

## MIKE GATTING: FOR THE RECORD

Mike Gatting was born at Kingsbury on June 6, 1957. He made his first-class debut for Middlesex in 1975 and was capped in 1977. He made his Test debut for England in 1977/78 against Pakistan at Karachi. He did not make a Test hundred until 1984/85 when he made 135 against India at Bombay, but he made nine in the next three years. In 67 Tests in 115 innings with 14 not out he has made 3,948 runs at an average of 38.09 with 918 fifties. He has held 51 catches and taken four wickets. His highest Test score is 207 made against India at Madras in 1984/85. He was captain for 23 Tests between 1986 and 1988, winning two, losing four and drawing 17. He retained the Ashes in Australia in 1986/87. He was on every England tour since 1980/81, apart

from the tour of Australia in 1982/83, and he has been probably England's most consistent batsman in county cricket in the last decade. He has scored more than 1,000 runs in a season 10 times. His best season was 1984, when he scored 2,257 runs at an average of 68.39 with eight 100s. His highest first-class score is 258 for Middlesex against Somerset at Bath in 1984. His highest score in the NatWest Trophy is 118 not out for Middlesex against Northamptonshire at Northampton in 1986. He has been captain of Middlesex since 1983 and under his captaincy they have won the NatWest Trophy in 1984, the county championship in 1985 and the Benson and Hedges Cup in 1986. He was awarded the OBE in 1987 and is having his benefit in 1988.

most wickets. He was off again that winter, on a Whitbread Scholarship to Balmain, the Sydney club who invited him back to captain them three years later, something which he did with great enthusiasm and success. By then, Gatting's Test career had started. The long struggle had begun to convince the sceptics that he was an England player. As one of those who never doubted it, and we were a rapidly dwindling band, I know what he went through. Even when he made big scores for Middlesex, it would be emphasized not that he had destroyed the bowling with his remarkable power, but that he should have been out when he was six or 10. However dogmatic the criticism, he took it like a champion.

Of his early England captains, Ian Botham, Keith Fletcher and Bob Willis all questioned his ability at Test level. The first to stand up for him was Gower, who took him as his vice-captain to India in 1984-85, with anything but the full backing of the selectors, and made a hero of him. The elegance with which, less than two years later, Gower accepted the loss of the England captaincy to Gatting was an example which Gatting himself, could he have managed it, would have done well to follow when his own time came.

By the end of the English season of 1984, Gatting had played 53 Test innings for a top score of 81. Over the next three years, he averaged 62, leading England to the retention of the Ashes and being awarded the OBE in the Birthday Honours of 1987. Even as late as last November, when he took England, little fancied before the start, on to the field for the final of the World Cup, his stock was high. Then, suddenly, he dropped his guard, not once, but several times. He came, perhaps, to take the job for granted. Anyway, the pressures told; the treadmill claimed another victim.

And now, as the people's martyr, he enjoys great popularity. He is a most formidable batsman, capable of memorable feats and astonishingly fast scoring. Although it was August 1978 before he scored the first of them, he has now made 50 first-class hundreds, nine of them for England. In each of the last seven seasons he has had a first-class average of over 50. I can recall no occasion on which he has played selfishly, and I have never seen him outwardly flinch. Although as captain in a five-day game he was stodgy, quite unlike his batting, he has an astute grasp of one-day tactics.

If you think he is short, you will be surprised how wrong you are when you stand next to him. It is because he is so broad that he seems smaller than he is. He can hold his own with the *Daily Telegraph* crossword and plays a fiercely competitive game of bridge. Now 31, strong, fit and determined, he still has the world at his feet—anyway, as a batsman. He is one of a rare breed. If England had 10 more cricketers like him, we should not have the dismal record that we do.

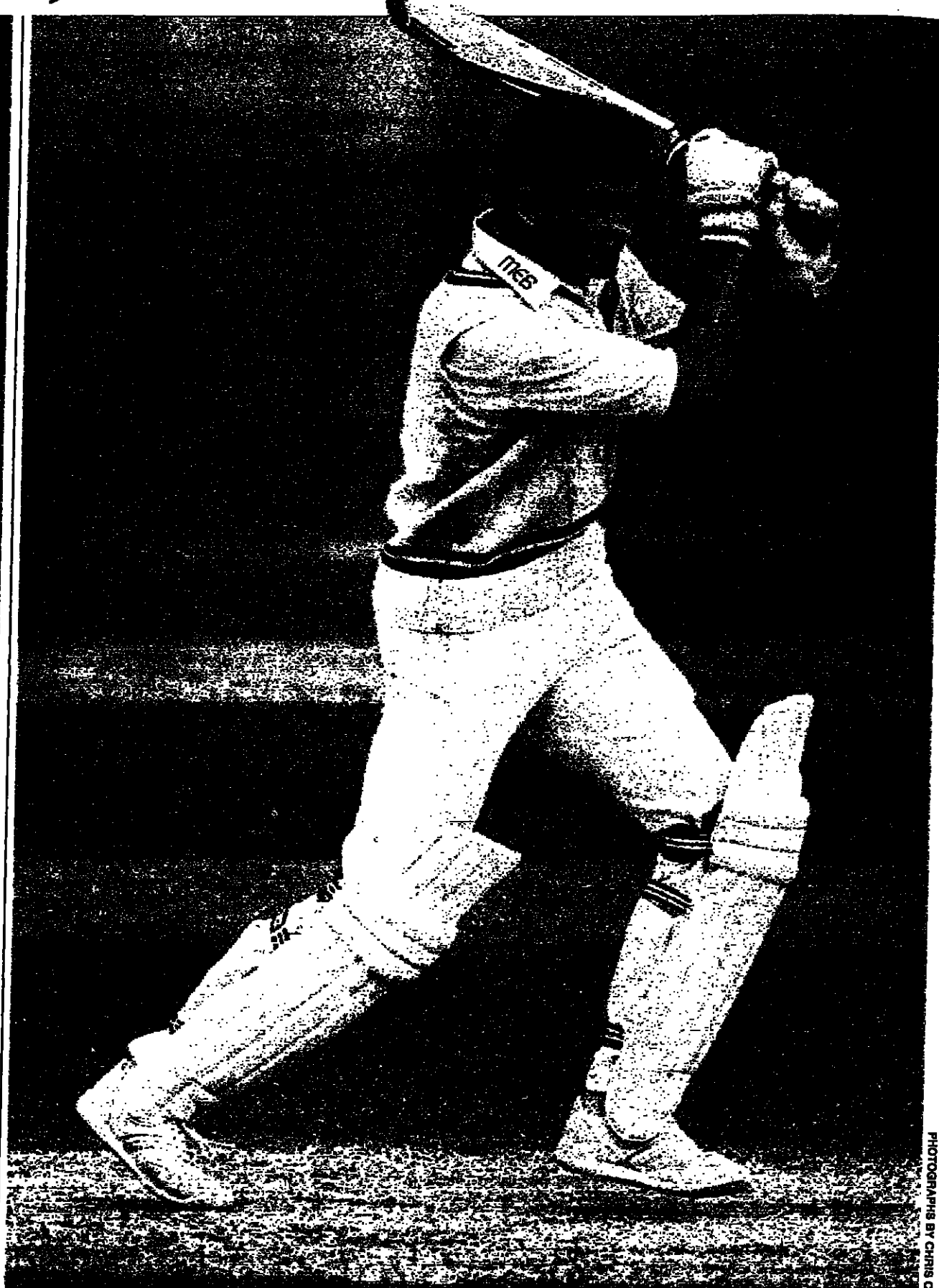
I only wish, though, for his sake and ours, that when he was told in June this year that his "quiet drink" with the barmaid had given him a penalty point too many and cost him the England captaincy, he had reacted more quixotically, by saying, if you like, "Yes, of course I will always play for England, whenever you ask me, and whoever the poor sod is who's captain. Count me in until you count me out." There and then he would have purged his discontent. But, like good leadership, wise counsel is, it seems, at a premium.

A Graeme Hick century now attracts the same public response as a level-par round from Faldo, a brace of winners from Eddery, a goal from Rush. Hick does everything else by the book. His bat comes down ramrod straight and the ball is met with the full face of the blade, not by the angled and improvised strokes forced by the need to defeat defensive field settings in one-day cricketing of so much English batting.

Hick adheres to the elementary teaching, often lost in expedients and experiments, of hitting the straight ball straight; he plays the ball late, his footwork instinctive and never exaggerated, his timing sure even on the pitches of untrustworthy pace and bounce which have blighted this particular summer.

In three full seasons of county cricket with Worcestershire, Hick has twice exceeded 2,000 first-class runs. In 1986, he became the youngest player ever to achieve this milestone; since then, his feats have merited a full-time statistician. Through it all, he has kept both arrogance and bitterness at bay in a situation where others might have succumbed, because he is so very good and yet, due to his birth place and to England's eligibility rules, he must wait until 1991 before he can grace the Test match circuit.

When he first plays for England (and when, rather than if, is surely the correct term), Hick will be just past his 25th birthday. By customary English standards of Test match circuit, he is a young man. His impatience is transparent, yet, to the dismay of opponents, it never extends to the business of batting. Once in the middle, Hick is invariably in control of himself, at one with his classical technique and his God-given flair, very much at odds with the wretched bowlers. Purists will cringe at one aspect of his game. He stands with the bat held high. In the style of Gooch and many others, the textbook traditionalists will say that this countermands the basic principle that the backlift is essential to the impetus of any stroke. Hick, with his economy of words and his



As Graeme Hick threatens to surpass every record in the batsman's book, Alan Lee savours the prospect of Worcestershire's strapping young Zimbabwean one day taking the field in an England sweater

unfailing politeness, will smile and say it seems to work well enough for him.

Certainly, leaving aside the overwhelming evidence of his runs, Hick does everything else by the book. His bat comes down ramrod straight and the ball is met with the full face of the blade, not by the angled and improvised strokes forced by the need to defeat defensive field settings in one-day cricketing of so much English batting.

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progress, this would mean that his most rewarding seasons were still ahead of him. In Hick's case this is asking rather too much; if true, he will inevitably break every existing record, dwarfing the greats of bygone days. Fantasy? Well, maybe so, but Hick has maintained such a staggering rate of improvement that it is impossible to set a ceiling on his achievements.

Oddly, he had been initially thought of as more of a bowler. At the age of nine, he bowled off-spin for Banket Junior School in Harare and took 115 wickets at three runs apiece. Four years later, however, playing for his high school, he averaged 185 with the bat and discovered his forte. He has since wanted to do nothing more than score runs.

I first became aware of him early in 1984. He had arrived at Worcester, aged 17, by courtesy of a scholarship from the Zimbabwe Cricket Union. Kidderminster, the Birmingham League club, took him on and quickly realized he possessed a rare quality: Worcestershire put him in their second team, where he averaged more than 60. He was given his county debut in their final championship game of the season. It was against Surrey at the Oval. Hick batted at number nine and scored 82 not out. Worcestershire asked him to come back next year, this time on their own terms.

In 1985, sharing the duties of overseas player with the Indian all-rounder Kapil Dev, Hick scored two centuries and

eight 100s. In 1987/88 he played for Northern Districts in New Zealand, hitting 146 against the England touring team. In 1988 he became the seventh man to make 400 in an innings in first-class cricket when he hit 405 not out for Worcestershire against Somerset at Taunton. Then he became the eighth man to score 1,000 runs before the end of May when he made 172 against the West Indians at Worcester on May 28. He passed 2,000 runs in all matches three days later during his 158 against Glamorgan at Abergavenny and 3,000 runs in all matches three days later during his 127 against Surrey at the Oval, as he made the fastest 100 of the season in 78 balls. His highest NatWest score is 172 not out for Worcestershire against Devon in 1987.

made an appreciable impact. Counties, however, are almost united in the belief that fast bowlers win titles, and so the following summer, with Kapil committed to an Indian tour, Hick was expected to be only the understudy to the young Barbadian bowler, Ricky Elcock.

On the morning of the opening match, David Smith, then the Worcestershire number three batsman, pulled out with a back injury. After a hasty conference, Hick was brought in and Elcock omitted. He scored 103, the first of six centuries that summer, and Worcestershire never again contemplated the folly of leaving him out.

When the newspapers reported his deeds, Hick would send the cuttings home to Zimbabwe, where his father, John Hick, a tobacco farmer, devoured the news. A decision had to be made and Hick, in his heart, had already made it. He wanted to play Test cricket and, although it means cutting ties with his native country, for whom he had already played in the 1983 World Cup, he was determined to follow that course, no matter the wait and the temptations from elsewhere.

At the start of this season, suspicions remained among rival counties that he might not be quite as good as his publicity claimed. Lancashire, for instance, felt he had a weakness against spin. They prepared a turning pitch for the first championship game of the year at Old Trafford, which Hick won with a stunning innings of 212. Two weeks later, his monumental 405 at Taunton was greeted with general hysteria.

Challenged by the West Indians in the last game of May, Hick responded by making 172, and passing 1,000 runs. It is no idle romance to report that old men went to Worcester that day. There were misty eyes everywhere because we were in the presence of a sporting genius, untainted by temperament, unspoiled by greed and inflated ego. Graeme Hick remains as fresh a talent as when he first came among us. Already he has given more pleasure than most cricketers manage in a lifetime; and there is so much more left.

Stomach  
threaten  
Neale o

CRICKET WORLDWIDE  
The 1988 season has been a remarkable one for many players. Graeme Hick's performance for Worcestershire has been particularly noteworthy. He has broken many records and is now considered one of the best batsmen in the world. His consistency and power have made him a key player for his county and a strong contender for the England team. The summer of 1988 has been a triumph for Hick, and it is expected that he will continue to perform at a high level in the coming years.

Other players who have performed well this season include Mike Gatting for Middlesex and Ian Botham for Warwickshire. The competition for places in the England team is fierce, and it will be interesting to see how the players perform in the upcoming Test matches. The summer of 1988 has been a great one for English cricket, and it is hoped that the team will continue to perform well in the future.

The NatWest Trophy final at Lord's is a major event in the cricket calendar. It is a chance for the best county teams to showcase their talents and for the fans to see some of the best cricket in the world. The final is always a highly anticipated event, and it is expected that it will be a memorable one. The winner of the trophy will be crowned the county champion, and the players will receive a prize. The final is a great opportunity for the fans to see some of the best cricket in the world, and it is hoped that it will be a successful one.

The cricket world is always full of excitement and drama. There are always players who are rising stars and players who are established stars. The competition is fierce, and it is always interesting to see how the players perform. The summer of 1988 has been a great one for English cricket, and it is hoped that the team will continue to perform well in the future. The cricket world is always full of excitement and drama, and it is always interesting to see how the players perform.

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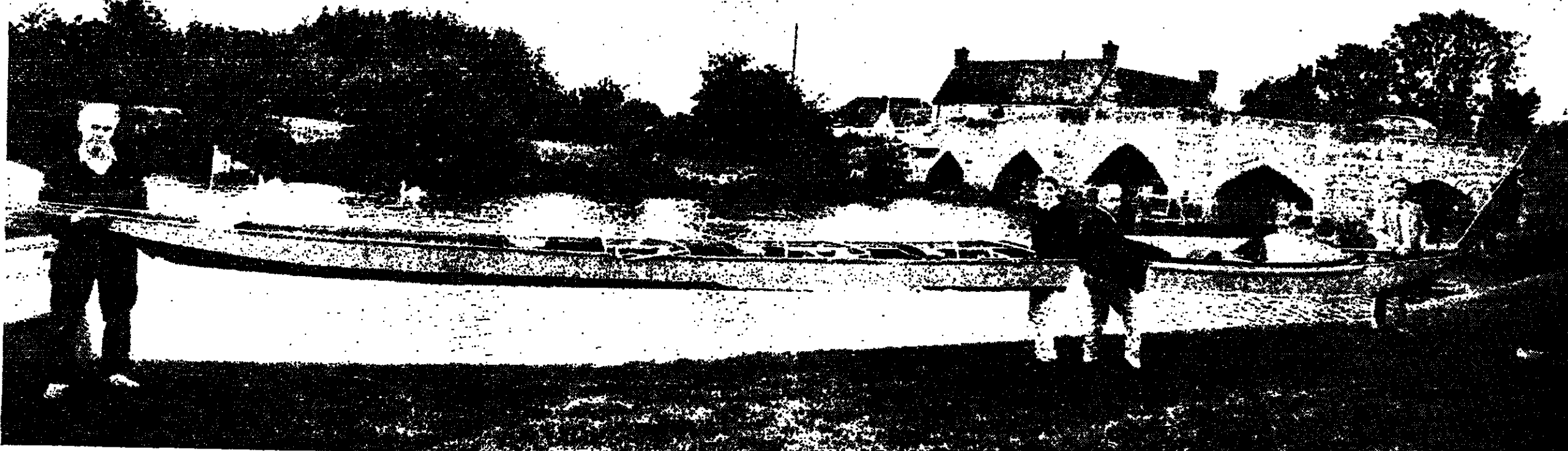








# The revolutionary way to avoid pollution and traffic congestion on London's streets



All hands on deck for the Great River Race: Richard Norton (extreme left) has taken to heart the challenge of Mike Turk, Master of the company of Watermen and Lightermen, by designing a revolutionary shallop to race from Richmond to Tower Bridge,

starting at 8 a.m. today. His 41ft, computer-designed craft, made with features such as three-part construction and interchangeable riggers, is believed to be the first shallop built from modern materials such as mahogany-faced plywood and epoxy

resins. It might not have traditions of Turk's replica sixteenth century shallop made for the film *A Man for All Seasons*, the Hawaiian was canoe on two replica Viking longboats setting out among the 71 entries for the 17-mile journey, but it does have history.

It is named after Sir John Norman, a Master of the Drapers Company who, in 1578, as Lord Mayor of London, regularly used a barge to travel to and from Westminster. Entered by Martin Neville, the present Master, it will carry eight, three rowers, a coxswain

and passengers, and can be transported on a roof rack and small trailer. We expect her to cruise happily at 7 m.p.h., he said. Finding no craft on the market to suit his needs, Norton designed his own. The shallop is like a gondola, ideal for a family who want

to spend a relaxed day on the river," he said. "There's nothing quite like going under your own steam. In the sixteenth century, people took to the Thames to escape the crime, pollution and traffic congestion. Need I say more?" Words and picture by Ros Drinkwater

## American footballer's secret addiction

## Sporting hero finds cruel side of success

New York  
An American hero fell from grace this week. He joined a long tradition. Heroes fall from grace all over the world: it is part of the eternal pattern of things. But when a sporting hero falls from grace in America, you can see the splash for miles.

Lawrence Taylor is that hero. A football player, linebacker for the New York Giants, and probably the finest defensive player in the history of the game: speed, mobility, improvisation, intuition: that is what characterizes his game. That, and an awesome destructiveness. "I feel my way into the quarterback's skin so that I almost know his moves before he does," Taylor said.

A great player, then. This week he failed a "substance" test — for the second time. He is out for the first four games of the season, which starts tomorrow, and if he strays — gets caught, that is — again, he will be out of the game for life.

He has admitted the substance in question was cocaine, that he has been a user for six years and an addict since 1985. "I'm worried about what's going to happen to the rest of my life unless I get straightened out," he said this week.

He is a man who has lived with his own gorgeous image for years. Naturally he has come to believe in it. He trumpeted forth, in his book *LT: Living On The Edge*, "I live my life the fast lane — and always have. I drink too much, I party too much, I drive too fast, and I'm hell on wheels. It's always been that way. When someone calls me crazy, I take it as a compliment."

I fancy these are the words that Taylor would once have liked on his tombstone: he is the perfect example of a certain type of sporting hero.

It makes great copy, stuff like this. Other remarks of his are more worrying. "A friend of mine once asked me about my driving habits. I told him I didn't wear seat belts because at the speed I go, I wouldn't survive anyway. I tell the truth, that I know about the dangers of drinking and driving brought other people. But if I don't care what happens to me, can I really think about what might happen to others?"

He occasionally reflects on death in his book: "A long time ago I read a poem about an athlete dying young — I don't know who wrote it, but I remember feeling that if you ever did die young, when everything was going really well, that it wouldn't be so bad. It would be better than growing old and watching the flowers grow."

There are unique pressures on a footballer. Any pro athlete is under pressure all the time, but football brings this more than any other sport. The game has a uniquely high profile, and a uniquely intimate relationship with television.

What is more, the sport is uniquely terrible. It is certainly the most terrible team game ever invented. Veteran players are literally sick with fright before games: every game has an audience of millions, every play sees the players risk appalling injuries. For the big games, the



Simon Barnes

pressures increase geometrically, along with the public expectations. It is a mad and frightening game, the players lead a mad and frightening existence, and the spectacle they produce can be uniquely wonderful.

Taylor wrote: "The thing about cocaine is that it doesn't affect you quite the same way over a long period of time. The more you use it, the more those subtle changes continue. I started to need that quietness, I could feel mellow and unburied."

He was caught by a drugs test two years ago, and went into "rehabilitation". But, still believing in his own mean, somewhat bitchy image, he found the process impossible. He roared at a few people, and walked out. He saved himself, he said, by playing golf.

"The golf course was my detox tank," he wrote. "My therapy — not recommended for anyone else — was to enjoy myself as much as I could, to live, not like a sick or confused person — which the books and the theories tell you you should when you're addicted — but like a healthy person, able to make choices, in relative peace and freedom."

With the benefit of hindsight, the self-deception here is painful. "I wanted to say 'I got into this mess. I could get out of it. It didn't work like that. Boy, I found that out.'"

What is astonishing about Taylor's case is not that he fell from grace, but that he managed to maintain his stratospherically high level of performance. It is remarkable: but it is not unusual.

That people under pressure seek ease in drinks and drugs is nothing new. That some athletes under pressure seek their comforts in powders and bottles is, in its way, inevitable: just as it is, inevitable in my own profession.

There is a type of addict that can always function, despite the substances. Frighteningly drunk day after day, he can appear sober, do his work with competence, perhaps even with some flair. To remain employed is to maintain access to the next bottle: more often than you would think possible, an addict can learn to cope. To an extent.

And as long as he can maintain, no one knows, no one cares. A blind eye is turned; he's all right, likes his drink, but who doesn't? There's no problem there, he never misses a deadline/tackle/whatever when he does that, we'll know there's something wrong, but right now everything's fine.

Thus the addict is helped, even tacitly encouraged to maintain his addiction. If his performance is important to the team, nothing else matters. The addict, secretive and self-deceiving, rides that wave just as far as he can.

Taylor wrote of a terrible early binge: "Here was a preview of my game: wildness on the field and wildness off it — success right on the edge of things. One step this way, glory. One step the other — forget it! I've been trying to keep the two in balance ever since."

He has been encouraged by the nature of the game, the nature of the public and media interest in him, the nature of his image and his self-image, the nature of his own headlong flight from anonymity. Thus the meanest son-of-a-bitch who ever played football became a victim.

## Ray Williams gives up top post with WRU

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Ray Williams, secretary to the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) for the last seven years, resigned yesterday, for what he described as personal reasons. It is a decision which can only add to the difficulties of a union already under fire for the most recent failure of its national side (in New Zealand) and involved in acrimonious dispute with its leading clubs over a league structure.

Williams, a leading figure not only in Welsh but in British rugby for more than 30 years, goes at a time when he had only four years more to retirement. Clearly, from recent statements, he had hoped to help Wales into the 1990s with the introduction of a league system and is not a man to back down from the challenge presented by the country's top clubs.

Myrdin Jones, the WRU president, said yesterday that the decision was a matter between Williams and the union, which suggests some unhappiness perhaps in the wage structure offered to the union's paid officials. The union's executive committee will meet next Wednesday to discuss the terms of reference for Williams's successor.

## Chance to impress for newcomers

By David Hands

England, in a manner of speaking, must become used to a "false" start to the season, as Scotland, with the League programme, have done for many seasons. The first English competitive weekend is next Saturday, when the Courage Clubs Championship gets under way. In Scotland, it will be September 24, when the McEwan's League begins.

That is not to say that today's games will be less than testing but they will be an opportunity for clubs to look at newcomers with the potential to appear in the League team, now that there are fixed Saturdays and that, by the end of November, the destiny of the League championship may be indicated, since seven of the 11 games will have been played.

At least today allows a time for sentiment: the Barbarians

## RUGBY UNION

## Ray Williams gives up top post with WRU

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

In a statement Jones said: "The WRU has to announce that the secretary, Mr Ray Williams, has for personal reasons submitted his resignation from the services of the union. The committee has accepted his resignation with regret and it takes effect from December 1." There was no further comment from either side.

Certainly Williams's autocratic approach to the job, after succeeding the unobtrusive Bill Clement, has made him some enemies but even the worst of them would not deny his commitment to the principles upon which he believed Welsh rugby should be based. As long ago as 1973 he presented a paper on a Rugby Structure for Wales which said the country "does not necessarily make the best of what it has got. The system is an historical accident... which is not now necessarily relevant in modern society."

Williams, aged 61, will go after 21 years of service to the WRU. A North Walian who played stand-off half at Wrexham, Loughborough College, London Welsh, Northampton and Wales, he had a slight physical education before joining the CCPR and working as their

senior technical representative in the West Midlands. In 1967 he became the first WRU coaching officer and, in that capacity, was largely responsible for the coaching revolution which developed in the late 1960s.

He was appointed secretary for the 1980-81 season before taking up the post of secretary, a position for which Wales may now consider someone with a business background, like that of Dudley Wood in England and Pat Moss in Ireland.

Derek Quinell will be the Welsh selector for the British Lions party to tour Australia next year. The WRU have also invited Stan Addicot, of Swansea University, to assist John Ryan, the new national coach.

## Lions preserved

Rugby Lions rugby union club, promoted to the Courage League third division this season, have signed a two-year sponsorship deal with Rugby Cement. The agreement, initially over a two-year period, is worth a five-figure sum and has the option of a two-year extension in 1990.

## Teenage look to Melrose

By Alan Lorimer

It is 87 years since the Border League began and today the competition begins anew with Scotch Biff again sponsoring. Melrose, the champions, face the Greenyards and Gala take on Langholm at Netherdale.

Melrose, captained by the Scotland B full back, Ian Ramsay, introduce three teenagers. Schools caps, George Weir and Graham Stiel, are at No 8 and centre respectively, and David Lunn comes in from Walkerburn.

The Scotland B captain, Chris Gray, is in the Nottingham side to play Howick at Mansfield Park and his side will also include Brian Moore, England hooker. The Greenyards will be without the skipper, Keith Murray, whose place at centre goes to David Grant.

Also testing early form out of Scotland will be West of Scotland who play Vale of Leven at Powderhouse Lane, Selkirk, who entertain Harrogate at Philiphaugh and Edinburgh Academicals who travel to Yorkshire for their game with Wakefield.

Back after a six-month suspension is John Jeffrey, the Scottish flanker, who is at No. 8 for Kelso against Berwickshire. In Edinburgh, the top game is at Goldenacre, where Heriot's play London Scottish who are without Gavin Hastings. Lindsey Renwick replacing Scottish will be among the guests side in tomorrow's Kelso Sevens, meeting Langholm in the first round.

DRAW: Selkirk v Saltaire; Kelso v Harrogate; Melrose v Edinburgh Borders; Glasgow v Glasgow Hawks; Glasgow v Glasgow; Public School Wanderers v Gala; Glasgow v Musselburgh v Howick.

## Ulster XV has the edge in experience

With six players who wore the green of Ireland last season, and three others with international experience, Ulster's team to play Yorkshire at Ravenhill today bristles with experience (George Ace writes). It will be the 51st meeting between the teams, with the Province ahead in victories 26-19.

Ulster: R. Ramsey (Ballymena); T. Ringland (Ballymena); J. Hewitt (London Irish); W. Harrison (London Irish); R. Cresson (Inverness); R. Brown (Malone); R. Brady (Ballymena); M. Reynolds (Malone); J. McDonald (Malone); J. McCoy (Bangor); P. Matthews (Wanderers); G. Morrison (Malone); W. Anderson (Gungahlin); D. McBride (Malone); D. Morrow (Bangor); YORSHIRE: R. Adamson (Wakefield); M. Harrison (Wakefield); C. J. Bentley (Skelton); J. Backson (Wakefield); S. Bennett (Skelton); S. Townsend (Wakefield); G. Irvine (Harrogate); M. Whitcombe (Skelton); P. Bell (Harrogate); A. Rice (Wakefield); S. Tilling (Glen); G. Thompson (Rotherham); S. Sharkey (Wakefield); P. Buckton (Rotherham); J. Chapman (Middlesbrough); Referee: J. Cole (Manchester).

## Last opportunity to stake a claim

By Barry Pickthall

Fired by the success already achieved by some qualifiers from earlier rounds of the Crewsearch scheme, 64 up-and-coming sailors, including 11 women, are at Abersoch, west Wales, this weekend for the last of the regional trials.

This search for yachting talent, sponsored jointly by *The Times* and James Capel, the global investment house, has proved an unparalleled success in its first season and provided a unique chance to break into the top echelons of the sport.

The finals to select the top six individuals from 11 crews representing each area of the nation are not until October, but already many of the qualifiers are on the ladder to success, thanks to Bill Edgerton, the Royal Yachting Association's offshore coach, who has been responsible for running the scheme.

It was Edgerton's recommendations that led to the Indulgence skipper, Eddie Warden Owen, offering a Scottish finalist, George Skudatos, a place in his crew competing in the Kenwood Cup at Hawaii. Simon McLean is another to impress: the 6ft 5in crewman came to the fore at the Brighton Crewsearch trial. He is on his way to San Francisco to represent Britain in the One-ton Cup aboard Mike Pascoe's yacht Juno. Other finalists are taking up berths offered on British boats in the Half-Ton Cup at Poole next week.

This morning, Warden Owen, Britain's leading match-race skipper, returns to his home country to assess each contestant in the Abersoch Crewsearch trial at the South Camarnarvon Yacht Club; he will pick the best six individuals to sail with him

## YACHTING

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## SNOOKER

## Davis likes idea of open play

By Steve Acteson

Steve Davis, the world champion, has challenged the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) to link hands with the amateur bodies and throw the sport open. Davis believes the professional game, restricted to 128 players, has become "a virtual closed shop" and wants the legions of amateurs world-wide to be given an equal chance to compete for the leading prizes and the all-important ranking points.

The most serious problem in the game today, Davis said, is that the path to professional status is so difficult, it is frustrating the next generation. He would like to see an end to the demarcation between professionals and amateurs. "We should all just be called snooker players. There should be no difference between us, and everybody should have the right to challenge for places in the open tournaments," he said.

Davis believes it is time to scrap the qualification system whereby the top 26 from three satellite tournaments for amateurs are whittled down to eight in head-to-head contests. The survivors then join the world and English amateur champions, if separate, for one 17-frame match against the 10 lowest ranked professionals. That decides who gains a professional ticket next season.

"You could win the world and English amateur titles and then, because you lose one match, you're out and you have to do it all over again the following year," Davis said.

Davis joins his seven Matchroom colleagues in the first tournament in Dubai, the £75,000 Dubai Duty Free Masters, from September 26 to 29.

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## TODAY'S TEAM NEWS

### Cardiff v Bristol

Cardiff will be missing Norster, their captain, and Hadley, their erstwhile vice-captain. Bristol play Harding and Webb, their internationals, and bring in Woodman (wing) and Adams (lock).

### Gloicester v Swansea

After a substantial season, Gads returns to the Gloucester back row with Stroud, and Etheridge is preferred at lock. Swansea field internationals in Wyatt (full back), Tiley (wing), Clarendon (stand-off) and Richard Moriarty (lock).

### Hawick v Nottingham

Nottingham, back from their tour to Australia, give debuts to Hackney (wing), Roberts (scrum half) and, in the pack, Johnson, Back and Mellor. They are without Riles, the England flanker, who is with the Barbarians.

### Leicester v Bedford

Richards, the England No. 8, is unavailable for Leicester because of police duties. Poveas plays instead and Thacker will hook, since Roberts is recovering from an operation.

### Moseley v London Welsh

Jones partners Robson at half back for Moseley, who play Heard (ex-Bristol) in the wing. The Welsh pick David Morgan and include newcomers Osborne, Harnes and Rooke in their pack.

### Pontypool v Bath

Pontypool, without Bishop and Ring, face a Bath XV with 10 internationals, though Cronin, the Scotland lock, cannot find a place. Bath back row is preferred in the second row.

### Maesteg v Wasps

Oti makes his debut on the wing for Wasps, with three more internationals in the backs and three in the pack. Wasps can even introduce three others.

### Rosslyn Park v Birkenhead

Park, assiduous recruiters during the summer, field new half backs in Woodhouse (ex-Harlequins) and Smith (ex-Richmond).







## BOOK OF THE WEEK

## The Next Fifty Years

Paul Gallico was one of the leading sportswriters in the United States from 1923 until 1936. Two years later, he paid his final respects to sport by writing the book *Farewell to Sport*, including this view of events 50 years on

They are wonders, all these heroes and heroines of mine, superlative, unsurpassed, and their deeds are certain to ring down through the ages — well, at least the next five or six years of these ages. Because, unless I miss my guess and the past is not an honest guide to the future, the records and accomplishments of these valiant are not carved in rock, but writ on sand.

All things being equal and the nations refraining from destroying one another and their able manpower by gunfire, chemicals, and high explosives, I suspect that there are equally great and even greater athletes and colourful performers in sport to follow and that 50 years from now the deeds and records of Jack Dempsey and Babe Ruth, of Glenn Cunningham, Paavo Nurmi, Helen Wills, Bill Tilden, Bob Jones, and Jesse Owens will appear as musty and forgotten to that generation as those of the heroes of 25 and 30 years ago appear to me now.

About seven years ago, at which time Captain J.M. Patterson, publisher of the *Daily News*, was also publishing *Liberty Magazine*, I offered him an article to be entitled "The Golden Decade", listing and extolling the glories of the sports heroes of the greatest 10 years of sports and great athletes the modern world had ever known, from 1920 to 1930. He said that he didn't think the heroes of the present time were so much better than those of his day, and turned the article down. And, from his point of view, he was quite right. One's real and permanent heroes are always those one grows up with in one's youth.

In boxing he was thinking of Ketchel and Fitzsimmons, Jim Corbett, Jim Jeffries and Tom Sharkey, the superb boxing and defensive scientist Jack Johnson, Sam Langford, Joe Walcott, Joe Gans, Terry McGovern, Ad Wolcott, and Bat Nelson, Willie Ritchie and Benny Leonard, Paddy McFarland, Jack Britton, Young Corbett and Jimmy Wilde, as great a galaxy of names and performers probably as the ring has ever known, now fading more and more into the forgotten past.

There were tennis greats, too. William A. Larned won the singles championship of the United States as often as did Tilden, seven times. And Maurice McLoughlin was every bit as colourful as any of the latter-day players. From 1915 to 1926, Molla Mallory won the women's American singles championship eight times. Helen Wills in her time only achieved seven, though of course her Wimbledon record helps her to stand out. And Hazel Hotchkiss, later Mrs George Wightman, and Mary K. Browne were pretty good tennis players, even though the woman's game was not quite so fast then as it is today. But then neither is the game of today as fast as that of tomorrow will be.

In golf the ancient heroes are legion, and they played a much slower, shorter ball, with far less efficient clubs. True, no-one in the past has equalled Bob Jones's Grand Slam, but it is quite possible that this wave of active participation, as opposed to taking sport vicariously via the grand-stand seat, will kill off interest in amateur and professional championships, and the big gates along with them. But I feel that exactly the opposite will be the result. The greater the number of participants, the more customers eventually for the experts and champions. Every man or woman who has ever played a game wants to go to see the champions play, for purposes of comparison and study. They are curious to see how much they resemble the champions — if at all.

There are three general means of advancing a particular sport: improving the equipment with which it is played, improving the technique of play, and improving the people who play it. I believe that we have gone only a little of the way towards the peak of possible human achievement in any sport. It would take an extraordinarily egotistical frame of mind to believe that because in 50 years we have reduced the time for the

only an old man's sport, and hadn't yet been taken up by the masses. None of the sports, with the exception of horse-racing, polo, and yachting, were as popular or as fashionable as they are today.

The upswing was a wide, rapid stroke. The pendulum may swing back again. Interest in sports nose-dived violently for a time during the depression, and many of us felt a little silly, still writing daily in the flamboyant post-war style of highly-paid professional and amateur athletes at a time when most people were wondering where their next pay-check or meal was coming from.

There will always be interest in sports as long as the average citizen has a fair income, leisure time, and a reasonable amount of security. The trend at present is in the direction of participation in sports and games. More people are playing or learning to play games or indulge in some form of exercise than ever before.

There seems to be a feeling that this wave of active participation, as opposed to taking sport vicariously via the grand-stand seat, will kill off interest in amateur and professional championships, and the big gates along with them. But I feel that exactly the opposite will be the result. The greater the number of participants, the more customers eventually for the experts and champions. Every man or woman who has ever played a game wants to go to see the champions play, for purposes of comparison and study. They are curious to see how much they resemble the champions — if at all.

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In athletics, the 1938 world record for 100 yards was 9.4 sec, credited to Jesse Owens, among others. The last official world record for the distance was 9.0 sec, set by Ivory Crockett (US) in 1974 and equalled by Houston McTear (US) in 1975. There is no longer any serious competition over 100 yards. The 100 metres world record in 1938 was 10.2 sec, set by Owens in 1937; 9.9 sec was set for the first time in 1968 by Jim Hines (US), and it was bettered only in 1987 when Ben Johnson (Canada) ran 9.83.

Gallico predicted that the mile record would go from 4min 4.4 sec to 4:03. In fact, 4:03 was achieved for the first time by Arne Anderson (Sweden) in 1943. The record stands at 3:46.32, set by Steve Cram (Britain) in 1985. The high jump record has gone from 2.09m in 1938 to 2.42m, set by Patrik Sjöberg (Sweden) last year. Gallico imagined 2.14m as the mark in 1988. He thought that the pole vault record would climb

from 4 min 20 sec to 4 min 6.7 sec, that this is the summum of foot-running and the end. True, somewhere, some time, there must be a ceiling beyond which no combination of human courage, skill, endeavour and physique can rise. They cannot eventually run that hundred yards in nothing flat. But we flatter ourselves when we think that we have approached it in this generation. Fifty years from now, not a record now on the books will be left standing.

In sport, and advances made, a great deal depends on what you think you can do and what you are used to doing. When I was rowing on the Columbia crew back in 1916, 1917, 1920 and 1921, the four-mile race at Poughkeepsie was rowed with a fast racing start of about 36 to 40 strokes a minute, then quickly dropped to 32, and then down to 28 for the long grind. There might be an occasional sprint when the stroke would be raised slightly for 10, but most of the time the boats slogged along at that pace. 28, relying on smoothness, power, and the driving kick at the finish to keep ahead of competing eights. The last half-mile we would whoop it up to 32 again, and possibly hit 38 to 40 in the final scramble for the finish line, and then keel over. The four-mile race rowed that way, was as far as I was concerned, the absolute limit of my endurance. I was used to that, keyed to it, trained to it.

In my last year in the boat, 1921, Navy sent an eight-oared crew up to Poughkeepsie that rowed at 40 strokes to the minute all the time in practice. They were an object of considerable derision along the river, where the old-time crews, Syracuse, Cornell, Penn, Columbia, had their boat-houses and training quarters. We just let them go because we knew that before they had rowed a mile at that pace in the big race, they would collapse and be out of it. All of us, coaches and oarsmen alike, but especially those of us who yanked the oars, knew that it was impossible to row four miles swinging 40 strokes to the minute.

The Navy, however, did not seem to know that, because on regatta day they

hit 44 at the start at Krum Elbow and then rowed 40 the whole four miles down the course to the finish line a mile below the bridge, and nobody was even close. Their stroke wasn't as long as ours and it wasn't as rhythmic and pretty. However, this wasn't a beauty contest, but a boat race, and they finished way out in front and were sitting up in the boat after they crossed the line.

Today, all boat-races are rowed at a higher stroke and the oarsmen survive beautifully. And just as people interested in rowing were congratulating themselves on this new and final development of the sport, along came a Japanese crew to the Henley Regatta in 1936 and rowed 52, all the way down the course. I happened to be on the Thames one afternoon and quite by accident ran across them out for a practice spin. From force of habit, I clocked them and came away a little dazed, knowing that one of us must be crazy. They didn't win the finals, because, fast as their stroke was, it was too choppy to be 100 per cent efficient, but the amazing thing is that they could do it at all. Will a crew some day row sixty strokes to the minute, a stroke a second? Why not?

One broken record usually precipitates a whole host of them because the smashed mark immediately changes the mental attitude of the athlete towards the task of wrecking it further. We borrow a term from boxing and call it "softening up". A crack sprinter will run the hundred yards in 9.6, the world's record time, and never improve on it. Along will come a new phenomenon and lower the world's record to 9.4. The 9.6 man will suddenly, to his own great surprise, do it in 9.4, too. Why? Because he knows it can be done, has been done.

The English Channel was an impassable barrier of water, wind, waves and currents for women swimmers until Gertrude Ederle softened it up by making a successful passage under her own power. After that, they had to have traffic cops to keep other women who succeeded in doing the same thing from swimming over one another.

(Ben Hogan (US) won in 1948, 1950, 1951 and 1953), and only Peter Thomson (Australia) has won the British Open three times in a row (1954-56).

In rowing, no crew has ever approached the forecast figure of 60 strokes per minute. In the Boat Race, crews exceed 40 strokes per minute only at the start, and then settle down to row in the low-30s.

In boxing, Gallico foresaw a world heavyweight champion weighing 160-170lb. The smallest post-war champion has been Rocky Marciano (US), who scaled about 185lb. Mike Tyson (US), the current champion, weighs about 215lb; Muhammad Ali and Larry Holmes at their peaks scaled about 210lb and 220lb respectively. As for boxing earnings, Gallico took no account of television, which can push the gross revenue from a single bout to more than £40 million. In terms of gate receipts alone, Bruno v Witherspoon took about £2.5 million, while the projected figure for Bruno v Tyson is more than £4 million.

By 1987 the hundred yards will have been run in 9.1, and possibly 9 seconds flat, the mile in 4 min 3 sec and high jumpers will be squirming over the bar at seven feet, while the pole-vaulters do 15. The track coach may laugh at this as a physical and technical impossibility, but it will be the same kind of laugh as the one given three decades ago by track experts at the thought of a 4 min 7 sec mile, the 9.4 sec hundred, or a running jump over a bar placed at 6 ft 9 in.

At the standard distance in yards, there isn't a single world's record now extant that was made prior to 1926, and the same is true of the metric distances, with the exception of the 5,000-metre record made by Paavo Nurmi in 1924. The marks set by the heroes and champions of 1900 and 1910 are wiped off the books. They are forgotten. There is no reason for believing anything but that the same fate will overtake the present-day crop. We're good all right, but we're not perfect by any means yet.

There is the valuable aid of the strange, spongy, grey matter that fills the tops of our skulls to be considered. It does play its part. If you need any further proof, look at the track records made by racehorses bred solely for speed and stamina. Some of them still go way back to 1899. The human being, bred at random, manages to develop faster.

Our equipment for all sports has been improving steadily, and will continue to improve. I doubt whether the golf-players of today on the whole are better men or better golfers than those of 30 years ago, though of course they play and practice more, because there is more incentive to win today than there was then. But there is only one proper way to hit a golf ball, and it is the same now as it was when the first Scot smote his feather ball with a crooked stick, over the Highland hills and the seaside sand dunes, except that we know more about the swing today because we have slow-motion pictures to analyse it for us. But modern ingenuity has given the player of today tools that are far more accurate and precise than those used 50 years ago. Whenever human perfection is approached in the game, it is matched by an approach to mechanical perfection, an accurate, tough, far-flying ball and powerful, properly-balanced clubs. And there is no reason to believe that the golf equipment of the next 50 years will not be even better.

The tennis racket has kept pace with the increased speed and tempo and severity of the game. It had to do so. Compare the modern streamlined, taut, tournament racket of today, strung to a musical note, with the square-headed subject bat that was used in the 1900s.

There isn't a single piece of sports equipment used in any game that has not been tremendously refined and improved in the last 30 years, nor a single item in which there is not room for further improvement.

And as long as human beings continue to make money out of sport, games and competitions of every kind will continue to advance technically; that is to say, form will improve as the mechanics of

participation are studied and analysed. There is a vast difference in attitude between people who do things for fun or relaxation and those who do them to eat.

Any amateur who turns professional will tell you that he never really began to learn about his game until he took it up vocationally as a wage-earning profession. Even the amateurs today are competing much more fiercely than they ever did before, on account of the kudos and the titles which in some manner or other can be turned to cash or benefit or advantage.

No small part of the modern standards of track and field sports and the general excellence of today's competition compared to that of 30 years ago is due to the greatly improved technique of running and jumping, all tending towards efficiency and the elimination of waste motion. But it would be merely thick-headed to hold that we all know all there is to know about such technique.

Judging from the ephemeral quality of the swimming records for both male and female, the technique of swimming is apparently still in swaddling-clothes. There was a lot of nonsense written after the 1932 Olympic Games about the Japanese secret of swimming that enabled 14-year-old schoolboys to carry off most of the Olympic prizes in competition against grown men and mature athletes. There was no secret except that the Japanese had learned the most correct and efficient style of swimming yet developed, the American crawl, and then had taken the trouble to teach it properly and to insist upon practice with Oriental patience and thoroughness.

But the technique of speed swimming is not yet completely developed, and few, if any, of the present-day records will be extant even 10 years from now. Fifty years from today, when that generation reads about the time we used to make back in 1937, it will wonder whether we swam with weights tied to our ankles.

But this is an uncertain world. Civilisations have risen and fallen before. Our records, printed on rag paper, are less lasting than those of the ancients, who, if they kept them, inscribed them on parchment or chiselled them in marble. Not a scrap of their remains, and archaeologists digging down through the rubble that may cover the cities of today a thousand years hence, will find not one single piece of evidence that in 1934, the mile was run in 4 min 6.7 sec, or the hundred in 9.4 sec, or that later generations improved on these startling figures. A great social catastrophe involving the destruction of nations and the wholesale slaughter of peoples, such as have been periodic in history, may throw the development of sport out of gear, to be resumed later, perhaps at levels never dreamed of today.

One is likely to forget that there was organised sport in Greece and Rome before Christ, track meets and games, and that with the fall of these nations there then was a hiatus of something like 18 centuries before national and international sports competitions were resumed. For all we know, the Greek athletes of the great Hellenic period may have run the equivalent of the hundred yards in nine seconds flat and made our modern milers look like selling plasters. One might well fancy running brought to the state of a high art in an age where it might more often than not mean the difference between life and death.

Sport has the same tendency to repeat itself that history has. There will be a heavyweight champion of the world at 160 or 170 lb, because in the cycle of boxing and boxing champions it is nearly time for one of those big little men like Bob Fitzsimmons or Joe Walcott to show up again, and there will also be a heavyweight fighter who will be called unbeatable and a superman and superfighter by a new crop of sports-writers and experts, who never will have heard about what happened to present-day experts, long dead and buried, who applied those terms to a Negro heavyweight by the name of Joe Louis.

There will be a lady tennis star who will combine beauty with talent, and who will probably be an accomplished torch singer as well as an unbeatable champion. This generation managed to combine those sterling qualities, as we know, in a backstroke swimming champion. There will be a golfer who will play nine holes in birdies, and another who will win the Open championship of America and Great Britain three times in a row. Where this generation measures its affluence and spending power with a three-million dollar prize-fight gate, 50 years from now there will have been a seven-million-dollar gate that will make ours look like chicken-feed. Well, high-grade chicken-feed, then. There will be super-horses, super-jumpers, super-athletes of every description, and the men who drive the thundercraft, the racing craft, motorboats and planes will laugh at the junk piles of yesterday that wouldn't do more than 130 on land or sea, and a puffing 300 through the air.

I shall not be here to see them, which doesn't matter greatly, because after the 14 years spent celebrating the heroes and heroines just passed into the wings, I should not have sufficient adjectives left to do them justice. It might be pleasant to be able to get a glimpse of the record-books of 1987 and see what the boys are running the mile in, or pick up a paper and learn whether the stumble-bums have developed any more potent way of rocking a man to sleep than by hitting him on the point of the chin or swatting him in the solar plexus, but in my own generation I figure that I have seen about all that there is to see in sport and said all I have to say upon the subject. I am, at this end, content to say goodbye and leave the field and its marvels to be rediscovered by the new generation of sports-writers.

Paul Gallico, the author of *The Snow Goose*, was born in 1897 and died in 1976. A *Farewell to Sport* has just been published in paperback (price £5.95) by Simon & Schuster under the Sportspecial imprint. Sportspecial has a specialist sports bookshop at 94-96 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0JG.

## HOW GALICO'S PREDICTIONS STAND UP TO THE TEST OF TIME

from 4.54m to 4.57m; 4.60m was achieved for the first time in 1940 by Cornelius Warner (US), and the present record is 6.06m, set this year by Sergei Bubka.

Event	1937/38 Predicted record	figure	When reached	Present record
100m	10.2	9.9	1968	9.83
Mile	4:06.4	4:03	1943	3:46.32
High jump	2.09	2.14	1956	2.42
Pole vault	4.54	4.57	1940	6.06

In golf, nobody has achieved the Grand Slam (now redefined as the Open championships of Britain and the United States, the Masters, and the US PGA championship) once, let alone twice. Nobody has won the US Open more than twice in a row since the war



## New Trends eclipsed as Candy's filly lands valuable Kempton prize

**Rating**  
One jockey's cap means awful,  
Two mean bearable, three mean  
average, four mean very good,  
five mean excellent.



**Martin Trew**  
of The Racing Post

1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 26







## OUTDOOR LEISURE

Taking to the air like a soaring bird, Ronald Faux renews the pleasures of pure flight.

A European banker, two coal merchants and a radiologist sat on a hillside watching the wind. It blew gently and warmly across the face of the slope towards a flock of seabirds performing wild aerobatics.

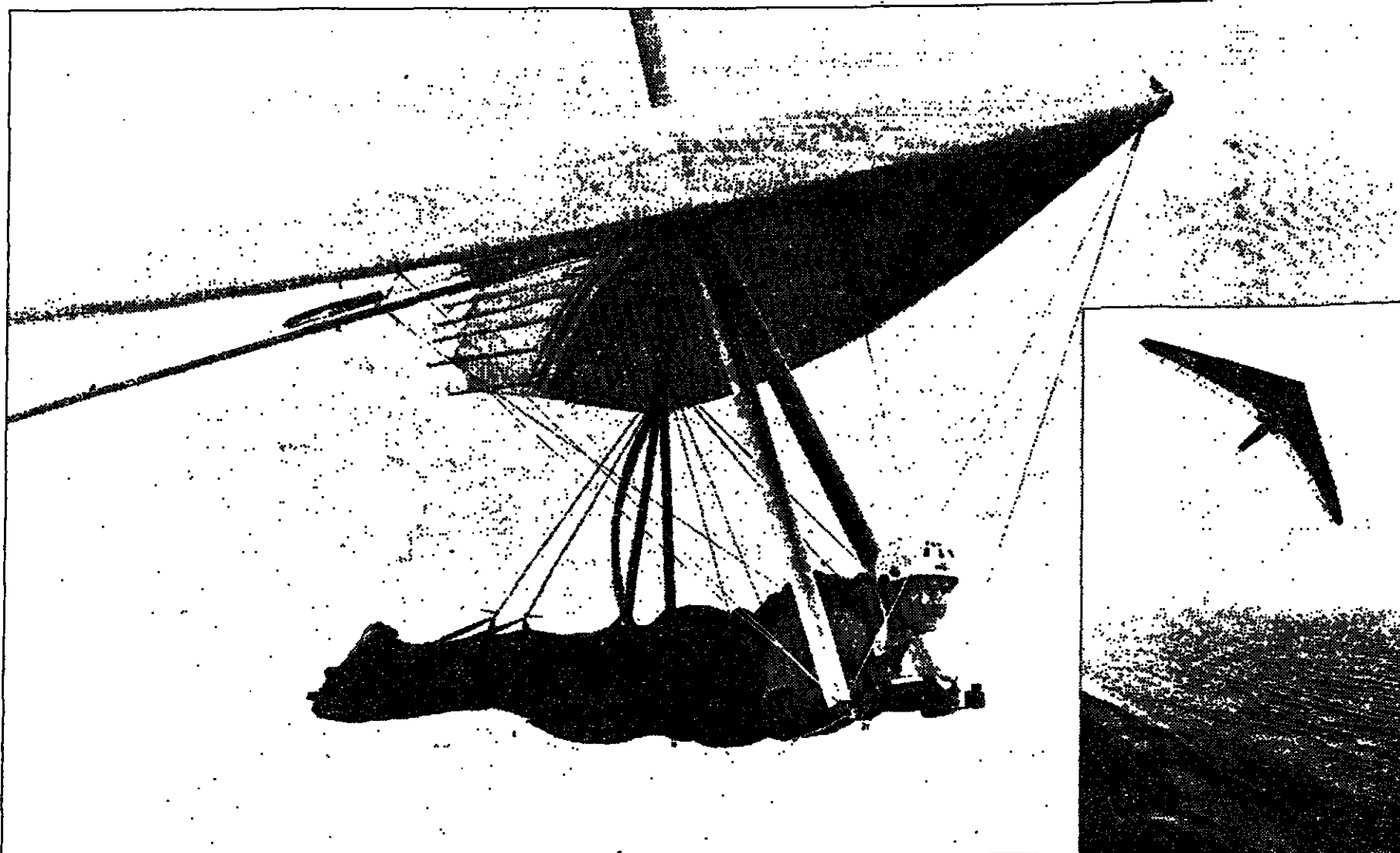
Mike McMillan, our instructor in the ways of wings and weather, pointed at them with a blade of grass. A classic convergence was on its way, he explained. The warm air bearing a menu of small insects was colliding at right angles with a cool slab of sea breeze. The warm air had started to rise, carrying the luckless insects with it and providing the birds with a late afternoon meal. It would soon be worthwhile rigging the gliders.

The bad news for the insect world was good news for McMillan's latest batch of hang-gliding tyros. The convergence meant that a useless easterly was about to become a steady sea breeze from the south, blowing directly on to our hillside and providing good flying conditions.

Hang gliding teaches you to read the small print in the weather forecast, and learn from the shape and drift of clouds, the invisible rush of air waves breaking against rising ground and even from the behaviour of cows. It is an important part of the sport's fascination. Sure enough, the wind wizard was right: the air cooled, the breeze veered 90 degrees and we were ready for the next steps in airman'ship.

Hang gliding is pure flight, stripped of ornamentation to one human being with wings silently and gracefully using the air like a soaring bird.

The bug first bit me years ago but not deeply enough to ignore the lamentable accident rate during the pioneering days. Pilots then were self-taught and their aircraft more often constructions of bamboo swathed in plastic sheeting; crude affairs with the flying qualities of a steam iron. Expecting the human leg to act as



Pure flight stripped of ornamentation: This Isle of Wight flyer is an expert in his own air space. The occupation also makes you a wary watcher of the weather

# Hang free, hang high

an undercarriage in such circumstances was not acceptable.

So what had changed that I should expose rather more mature limbs to much the same risk? Why was I now standing at the top of a steep slope on the Isle of Wight holding an enormous spread of aluminium tubing and artificial fabric on my shoulders and preparing to launch forward in solitary flight?

Two major differences happened since those early days. First, the aircraft are now elegant structures of great strength and stability. The Sopwith Camels have become Concorde's; strong, simple and easily controlled with training

models that flatter the flying abilities of beginners.

Second, the British Hang Gliding Association under the patronage of the Civil Aviation Authority, has developed a training system that is logical, thorough, unheroic and essentially safe. Nonetheless, the view from a high hill to a human about to jump off it is daunting. McMillan and the Eurobanker were holding long tethers attached to the nose and wingtip of the glider, which swayed unsteadily on my shoulders.

"Get your wings straight," McMillan rapped. He might have been God addressing the Arch-

angel Gabriel before take-off. I shrugged one shoulder and the wing straightened.

More instructions from McMillan. "Look at the horizon, pick a spot to aim for in the eye of the wind and run for it, NOW."

I ran clumsily forward and after four paces pushed the triangular control frame forwards. The air hit the underside of the sail and generated lift. Up I went, the glider no longer a cumbersome object but a gentle hand holding me aloft. The sensation was tremendous.

The slope slid by just a few feet beneath me and my two tethersmen raced down the hill. In a hollow at the bottom McMillan

shouted "Push!" and I did. The wing stalled with a slight sigh of expelled air and I stood on the ground, as near a landing as any swan made on a lake.

They were not all like that, those early flights. I learnt that some air can be fluffed and dead so that the flared wing has nothing to bite on and the pilot simply sprawls without dignity into the ground.

Sometimes I misjudged my height and left the flare too late so that the entire ensemble ploughed into the ground. The damage was never more than mud on my knees and I did nearly win a pint for reaching closest to a midden at the far side of the flying field.

Gradually, confidence and judgement built up until the tethers were removed after a dozen or so flights and the launch point moved higher and higher up the hill.

Flights of a few seconds extend to half a minute and then, with the help of a few soaring turns in the ridge lift to several minutes spent balanced on the edge of the wind. Each flight teaches a little bit more: what is the optimum speed to hold in a glide... what does the whisper of air over the sail indicate...

Then there are the checks, the mnemonics that ensure everything is 100 per cent safe, includ-

ing the rather crucial double-check that the pilot is actually clipped on to the glider.

"That may seem too obvious to be necessary," McMillan said, "but you would be surprised at how many pilots have launched only by their hands. By the time they realized what's happening they can be 100 feet up."

"It is impossible to fly the glider in that position so eventually they just don't have the strength to hang on any longer and they have to let go."

A trainee pilot should have reached the Pilot 1 qualification by the end of a one-week course, although the training may be dragged out over several weeks if the weather refuses to co-operate.

This is a weather-dependent sport. Certificate in hand, the fledgling may then join one of the 44 BHGA-affiliated clubs around Britain where a training officer will supervise further instruction to Pilot 2 status and beyond.

Anne Kristiansen, membership secretary of the BHGA, told me there are 2,900 active pilots and 3,000 more training at the 19 British schools.

British pilots clock up thousands of hours a year at the many recognized gliding sites. Accidents (there were five deaths last year) can often be blamed on attempting to fly when conditions are patently unsuitable. At less than £1,000 for a sound secondhand aircraft glider and about £2,000 for a new high-performance machine, hang gliding offers certainly the cheapest and surely the most elegant way of getting airborne.

With skill, a pilot can remain aloft for hours on end and soar scores of miles across country, climbing on thermals and the surging power of "wave" clouds to six or seven thousand feet on a good day. Some have shared thermals with an eagle. And having to fly in British weather has turned an impressive number of British flyers into world champions. It is a challenging and totally exhilarating sport and what is more, the wind is free.

● The Isle of Wight Hang Gliding Centre is at Tappell Farm, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight PO41 0YJ (tel. 0983-754042). A one-week course costs £165 (£219 with bed and breakfast at Tappell Farm). Information on hang gliding, including details of British schools and clubs, is available from the British Hang Gliding Association, Cranfield Airfield, Cranfield, Bedfordshire MK43 0YR (0234-751688).

## Down from the hills, to storm suburbia

Alan Franks finds that riding a chunky bike is the only way to travel if you want to lead the field these days



Franks on the Fox: comfort on the way to the health club

**'We are taking them to the streets because they growl'**

men still occupy first place), the figure of Reynard has long been one of the most popular in the bestiaries of fiction and folklore. But today — and this is important — he is also urban and adaptable, less at home in the wildwoods (what is there for him among the ranks of Forestry Commission conifers?) than in the common land of suburbia. Clever stuff. I believe there has been another primal appeal, and that adults have taken the lead from children. After all, the well-established BMX presents a similar image to the world, even though it is rather less knowing about it. Parents find themselves quite fancying something similar, just as the children will soon find themselves

strangely drawn to vehicles with motors in them. Hence the mountain bike joins the list of major purchases in which the toy element asserts itself.

It has been around for about five years, but it is only quite recently that it has really taken off. Some retailers recorded sales for 1987 which more than outstripped the previous four years combined. There are now 60,000 in circulation at the quality end of the market, by which is meant £300 or more. Pay less than £200 and after a couple of years the precision parts, particularly the chain and gear mechanisms, begin to show their age. The classy stuff favoured by

true Sloane Riders comes at £500-ish, but if you want to spend more on a customized model, you will find no resistance. As ever with bikes, the frame holds the key to cost and quality. On the cheaper ones the tubes are folded and welded from a flat sheet of metal. Upmarket, they are drawn through a mandrel, like pulled wire, then butted at the joints for full strength at no extra weight.

There is precious little DIY about the thing, as there was in the days when boys bought their derailleurs gear-changers, tubular tyres, quick-release hubs, centre-pull brakes and spent as much time re-lashing these toys as they did actually riding the assembly that resulted. The good mountain bike comes whole and perfect. It's together, like its owners.

The most amazing advance in the gear department, where there has been a quiet revolution of machining that compares with the coming of sychromesh in cars. One touch of the lever and you feel the change with a small solid clunk at the bottom of your legs. None of that very unchic, very uncool clanking and jangling. Legs remain a problem. The bike can indeed go up gradients hitherto unthinkable.

thanks to a low ratio of driving wheel to rear sprocket. You do actually go up, but hardly so that it shows, while the legs are whirling away like a food mixer. Not cool.

But because it is more ubiquitous than the racer, it is starting to make itself unpopular in the open countryside, which is ironic when you consider why it was made in the first place. The trouble is that it is getting on to the footpaths and making a nuisance of itself; it is churning and eroding and being generally annoying. This is a heasly thing to do to the outdoors. In the United States, they have already been barred from the national parks.

But I am being horrid about The Bike. Individually they are, like their owners, decent, nice to look at and sensible. Unlike that other useful purchase, a home, it may not double its value in two years, but then it is not a thing you buy in order to sell again. This is for life.

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## OUTDOOR LEISURE

## Who said walking was simple?

More than 20 per cent of Britons are estimated to have taken up walking, Britain's most popular leisure pursuit.

But there is also serious walking.

Robin Neillands reports

A challenge, an adventure, a marvellous way to see the outdoor world in all the seasons of the year. Serious walking, in the hills or on a long-distance footpath, is all these things. But it demands experience — and the right equipment.

## CLOTHING

The walker in Britain has to cope with ever-unreliable, changeable weather. Beginning with the feet, a real walker needs boots. Stiff, heavy clumpers have gone out of fashion in recent years, but light, flexible boots from such companies as Hawkins or Daisy Roots are essential, and a good pair of all-weather boots, with a cleated rubber sole and a sewn-in tongue will cost about £50.

Inside the boots go warm loop-stitched socks. The combination of flexible boots and loop-stitched socks will go a long way to eliminating that walker's bane, blisters.

Britain tends to be a wet and muddy place to walk, so knee-length gaiters at £15 will help to keep the feet dry and the boots free from mud.

Walkers tend to be divided between the merits of trousers or breeches. Breeches are being popular among hill-walkers and trousers more common with the lowland ramblers. Either will do, with a pair of shorts kept handy for the occasional sunny day. Breeches cost £35 to £45, walking trousers £30. On top goes a wool shirt, long or short sleeved, and a windproof anorak. A good anorak costs £50 or more.

The secret of warmth and ventilation while walking is to wear several layers of thin clothing rather than one heavy outer garment, for the air trapped between the layers gives good insulation. A layer can be stripped off if the walker gets too hot or the sun comes out.

At least to start with, any old, warm, comfortable clothes will do, but a range of well-made, comfortable and efficient outdoor garments, like those from Rohan, is available at the specialist outdoor shops. A set of the popular Rohan outdoor clothing, a jacket and trousers costs about £100.

## EQUIPMENT

Once suitably clad, the walker needs some equipment. A map and a compass — and a knowledge of how to use them — will be useful, even for day rambling. In the lowlands, the Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 (1 1/4 in. equals a mile) scale map (£2.95) will be sufficient, but in the hills the 1:25,000 (2 1/2 in. equals a mile) is better and gives finer detail.

A spare sweater, gloves, a hat and a set of wind and waterproof garments, consisting of leggings and a cagoule or hooded jacket, are also essential.

I find a walking-stick useful, to beat down nettles, plumb the depth of bogs or fend off farmyard curs. To this, according to the length of the walk and the terrain, walkers can add a first-aid kit, a stove complete with a cook-set for brewing tea, high-calorie food and perhaps a change of clothing and a pair of trainers.

Driving home from a walk in wet garments is no fun, and many pubs will not allow muddy boots in the bar; slipping into trainers for the mid-day pint and ploughman's lunch will ensure that a walking party receives a warm welcome from the landlord.

When not in use, most of these items can go into a rucksack. Good British rucksacks make a Karimor and Berghaus, and the size required, worked out in litres, will depend on the type of walking you have in mind.

Day-walkers can put their picnic and spare sweater into a 15 or 20 litre sack, the all-out backpacker, aiming to camp and walk



Ideal for the day walker: the 50 litre sack and tea

### Many walkers prefer going out when the summer crowds have gone

15 miles a day for a week or more, may need to take a 50 to 60 litre model to get it all in.

As a rule, the less weight you carry the better, but few will succeed in getting a winter backpacking load much under 30 lb. Rucksack prices are roughly in line with capacity; a 50-litre sack costs about £50.

## WINTER

Walking is no longer a "three-season" activity. Many walkers prefer to go out when the summer crowds have gone, and winter hill-walking has never been more popular. That said, hill-walking in winter can be dangerous, and is

certainly not for the inexperienced.

About thirty people, most of them walkers, die in the British hills each year, many of them from falls following a slip.

The essential item for winter hill-walking is the ice-axe, which will give added support on narrow, icy paths, and act as a brake in the event of a slip.

Those who intend to walk on ice or snow — or even consider the possibility of doing so — should also fit spiked crampons to their boots.

A good selection of walker's ice axes and 10-spike walker's crampons can be found in any good

outdoor shop, but it must be stressed that walking in crampons and braking with ice-axes are skills that have to be learned and require practice.

The other essentials for winter hill-walking are a cheerful companion and a well-planned route that takes account of the weather, the short hours of daylight, and the physical state of the participants.

## PLANNING A WALK

Even the best walk is helped by planning. This means assembling the maps, guidebooks and equipment and working out a suitable route a day or two before the start. At this time, it will help to study the weather forecasts and take these into account when planning the route and the distance.

About 12 to 15 miles a day is generally enough. Children can usually manage five miles on foot up to the age of, say, eight, and a mile extra per year of age thereafter. The golden rule is to keep the weight down and not try too much. It is also a fact that a mile walked in the morning is much easier than a mile after lunch, so aim to get the bulk of the distance done in the first few hours.

A good clear route, laid out on a route-card, will save a lot of poring over maps on windy hillsides, and if every walk includes frequent stops for tea and a snack, so much the better.

## WHERE TO GO

All this may give the impression that walking can be a hazardous activity, which is hardly the case. Given a little planning and common sense, hill walking, even in winter, is both perfectly possible and highly enjoyable, while the cooler autumn months which lie ahead is the ideal time to enjoy a tramp, long or short, through the English countryside.

Those who do not want to plan their own walks from the map will find themselves a wide choice of walking guidebooks, local and national, in their local bookshop or library. Britain's 13 longer-distance footpaths, such as the Cotswold Way, the Ridgeway and the South Downs Way, are all covered by guidebooks published by Penguin or Constable.

Those who enjoy day-walking

have a vast choice of places to go. The Lake District, the Derbyshire Peak District, the Western Highlands or the Yorkshire Dales are particularly popular at this time of year.

Walking has now spread far beyond the confines of the UK, and serious walkers now make their way across the *Grande Randonnee* trails of France, into the Himalayas, or across the American Rockies. Your feet will take you almost everywhere.

## INFORMATION

The main organization for walkers in the UK is the Ramblers Association, 1-5 Wandsworth Road, London SW17 2LJ, tel. 01-582 6878. It encourages walking and hill walking and a greater

knowledge of the countryside. Annual membership costs £5.

There are more than 300 branches of the association in different parts of the country. A comprehensive range of OS maps and footpath guides can be obtained from E. Stanford's, The Map Shop, 12-14 Long Acre, London WC2P 9LP (01-836 1321).

Maps and guides to the footpaths of the Continent are available from McCarty, 1222 Kings Cross Road, London WC1 (01-278 8276).

Robin Neillands is the author of *Walking Through France, an account of a 700-mile walk on foot from the Channel to the Camargue* (Collins, £10.95).

## WEEKEND WALK

North Downs, Surrey  
Dorridge to Guildford  
Distance 12 miles

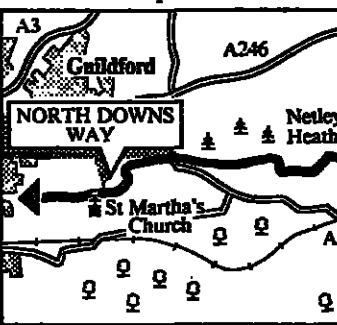
This is an undemanding but rewarding tract of what could once be termed Green Line Bus countryside — the first genuinely rural bits on the fringe of the capital.

Do this one on a weekday if you can and enjoy the sensation of travelling against the grey commuting tide.

Our westbound path starts at a right-hand turning off the main road to the south of Westhumble Station, and is signposted North Downs Way — this being part of the long-distance route that runs from the Kent coast to the Hampshire town of Farnham.

This stretch is one of a string of great chalkland, saucages, conveniently divided by road and rail.

The first couple of miles take



Alan Franks

## Finding fun in deep waters

I took the plunge and asked my instructor what she thought of my performance. "You," she said, "are a natural crawler." Gratiated and encouraged, I readjusted my goggles and had another go around the heavily-chlorinated shallows of the 4.5 metres-wide pool at the Long Range Swimming School.

I was at the school to learn how to swim — an achievement promised in one week or my money back. For 40 years I had confused PE teachers, instructors and friends with my fearless incompetence. I always thought I ought to be able to swim; after all, a great-uncle had won the Albert Medal for saving life at sea and there are half-a-dozen Chief Petty Officer Stokers RN in the family tree.

But despite a natural propensity to end up in deep water, I defied all attempts at arts of self-propulsion and oxygenation.

My personal best when I arrived at the swimming school was a gulp of air and about six metres of desperate scrabbling, clawing and thrashing about in the water before the whole of my life appeared to pass before my eyes. But this was enough for Melanie Loveridge, the welcoming instructor, to put me in the intermediate group of learners. I protested; she insisted. Intermediate I was.

Melanie, or "Mel" as she came to be known because that was all anyone could get out before another mouthful of water silenced them, was to attempt to make swimmers of us all by providing three 40-minute sessions in the pool each day for six days.

The five of us in the intermediate group felt Mel was too kind in her assessment of our abilities, while the advanced group carried their apparently high standard to the pool edge like a dead weight. Only the beginners were glad; they were coming from nowhere and obviously had to end up somewhere.

The school, which is at Whimple, on the A30, on the London side of Exeter, has had some 2,500 students — the youngest aged four, and the oldest 95 — through its changing rooms over the past three and a half years. It claims a 99.3 per cent pass rate.

Success is measured by being able to swim a width of the school's pool unaided. This is achieved through instruction in small groups, without spectators, and with the instructor always in the water, which is maintained at 91 degrees F.

It is never too late to fathom the art of swimming as Anthony Cox discovers during an intensive one week course



Immediate success is measured by being able to swim the width of the Long Range swimming pool unaided

It is a small achievement, but then a journey of a thousand miles will always begin with a single step. Successful Long Range students eventually make a bigger splash elsewhere.

On the first morning, Mel produced her syllabus and we put on our goggles. By the end of the day we could float on our fronts and on our backs, roll over each way, glide and jump in, properly, but we failed to sit on the bottom of the pool — which was Mel's way of showing us how difficult it was to sink. After the third lesson we were exhausted but triumphant and all we wanted was to get back into the water for more.

Day Two, and as the lessons wore on the exhaustion mounted. Mel was demonstrating strokes and we were practising them; first, the arm movements, then the legs. We watched as the 27-year-old

Mel, a graceful, long-legged blonde in black Lycra, went through her paces.

"Could you show us that again, Mel?" we asked as our own Sharon Davies performed a water ballet. From the poolside we marvelled, and wondered how long before the lunch break, but Mel was relentless: "Back in the water!"

We crawled through to the end of the third lesson, wondering if we could face three more on the breast stroke the next day. We did, but we applauded Mel's declaration of a half-day holiday on Day Four.

After two lessons everyone rushed off to Torquay or Budleigh Salterton before she could change her mind. No one went swimming anywhere that afternoon and the 16,500 gallons of pool water had a chance to cool down.

By now, the advanced group were dripping increased confidence, but one didn't like to ask too much of the absolute beginners. Polite enquiry produced the response, "We're making progress".

The intermediate group's progress came directly from Mel. Too many swimming instructors bellow like sergeant-majors from the poolside at their terrified pupils, but Mel didn't shout and she was always in the water.

She demonstrated, we practised, she complimented: "No problem," she would say as we registered some new success thanks to her "hands on" technique. We had confidence in her and, in return, she built our confidence in ourselves.

At the start of Day Five — with only six more sessions to go — we could do the movements for the crawl and a sort of breast stroke over short distances. We could also breathe while doing them!

Now came the real test: into the deep. Encouraged by our instructor, by the afternoon we were swimming out of our depth and into more praise: "No problem," chuckled Mel. There was no ducking and diving — just hard work by all concerned.

The Last Day. Two sessions of revision and on to the grand finale: beginners, intermediates and the advanced group all into the pool for a game of volleyball in which everyone seemed to score amid the noisy splashing.

I drove away from the school with my very first swimming certificate on the back seat and Mel's advice ringing in my ears that what he had learned would be all too quick forgotten without regular practice.

Within 24 hours I was swimming solo in the local municipal pleasure dome. In my vermillion trunks and with my black goggles, looking the aquatic equivalent of the Red Baron, I jumped. Swim or sink! Breath in, arms out, legs up, head down, kick. I went through a litany of instructions — and wallowed to a halt. I went back to the side of the pool, determined not to think but to do. I set off again simply trying to feel right about what I was doing. It worked. I was swimming. Twenty-five metres later, and still breathing, I was triumphant. I was a swimmer.

For further details of the Long Range Swimming School's residential and non-residential intensive courses contact G and C Holidays Ltd on Basingstoke (0256) 22303.

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## GARDENING

## GARDENS TO VISIT

## Late bloom time

**Argyll:** Cranae Woodland Garden, Inveraray; lovely garden in glen; 40 acres; outstanding collection of plants; beautiful in autumn; plants for sale; daily until end of Oct; 10am-4.30pm.

**Berkshire:** Henwick Old Farm, west of Thatcham; on A4 turn north up Henwick at west end of Thatcham at traffic lights; many unusual shrubs and trees; three ponds; admission 70p, child 30p; Sun: 2-6pm.

**Berkshire:** Manderston, near Duns; 56 acres of immaculate formal and woodland gardens; fascinating house with the only silver staircase in the world; Thurs and Sun until Sept 30; parties by appointment (0361 83450); 2-5.30pm.

**Buckinghamshire:** Paul End, Paul's Hill, Penn, 2m north-west of Beaconsfield on B474; medium-sized garden on clay; wide variety of shrubs, herbaceous and roses; admission 80p, child free; Sun: 2-6pm.

**Dorset:** Compton Acres, Compton Cliffs, Poole; a series of gardens with herbaceous, roses, subtropical plants, Japanese garden, fine autumn colour; plants for sale; daily until Oct 31; 10.30am-6.30pm.

**Fife:** St Andrews University Botanic Garden, St Andrews; 18½ acres; fine trees and shrubs, rock and water gardens, peat plants; interesting all year; daily 10am-4pm in winter.

**Lancashire:** Windle Hall, north of E Lancashire road, St Helens, 5m west of M6 via E Lancs road near Southport junction; walled garden, rock and water garden, herbaceous, roses, greenhouses, ornamental plantings; admission 60p, child 30p; Sun: 2-6pm.

**Northfolk:** Blickling Hall, Blickling, Norwich, on north side of B1354, 1½m north-west of Aylsham; 140, 15m north of Cromer; fine garden, orangery, parkland and lake; admission house and garden £3, parties £2.50; garden only £1.80; daily except M and T until Oct 30; noon-5pm.

**Oxfordshire:** Chival Farm, Heythrop, 4m east of Chipping Norton, off A34 or A381; 1½ acres, shrubs, herbaceous, small formal white garden; admission 70p; child free; Sun: 2-6pm.

**Powys:** Powis Castle, 1m south of Welshpool on A483; splendid gardens; scented flowers; braille guide; admission castle and gardens £2.50, child £1.20; gardens only £1.60, child 70p; daily except M and T until end of Oct; noon-5pm.

**Surrey:** 25 Little Woodcote Estate, Wokingham; private road off Woodcote Lane; ½ acre over chalk, plantman's garden; rock garden, herbaceous, alpine greenhouse and sink gardens; admission 70p, child free; Sun: 2-7pm; parties by appointment (01-647 9679).

**Somerset:** R.T. Herbs and Garden, Kilmersdon, on B3139 east of A367 Radstock-Shepton Mallet; ½ acre, wild flowers, herbs, herbaceous; admission 50p; daily until end of Oct; 9am-6pm.

Roy Hay

## Through a painter's eyes

CLARE ROBERTS

A raw suburban plot gave the landscape artist Sir Brian Cook Batsford the chance to 'create a garden out of nothing' at Winchelsea. Francesca Greenoak enjoys its view and privacy

The striking landscape dust-jackets in strange flat colour and shade which were so much a part of the remarkable Batsford books on British landscape and heritage came from the hand of Brian Cook — now Sir Brian Cook Batsford. (He changed his name incorporating both his father's and mother's maiden names.) Enormously popular in the 1930s and 40s, his work is now known to a younger public through a major exhibition and the publication of a book of his Batsford work.

He still paints, despite deteriorating eyesight, and he still makes gardens. At 77, he is well over six foot tall, with enduringly boyish looks behind which lies a restive soul, alight with new plans and projects. He sees gardens as canvases and, having created an effect to his satisfaction, is eager "to try something entirely new". He certainly has not lacked opportunity for experiment, having moved house 13 times in the past 39 years.

I met him a few months after he had moved from the famous Lamb House at Rye (erstwhile home of Henry James and E.H. Benson) to a small modern house in Winchelsea. Its pleasant drawing room-cum-dining room opens through two wide french windows on to the garden, making its scenery part of the room itself.

When Sir Brian and Lady Batsford moved in during late winter, the view was of an ugly lap fence to the west, faced by what resembled a small wood (actually an overgrown beech hedge) with a narrow patch of rough grass and building rubble between. A depressing example of a raw plot, it

perversely filled Sir Brian with enthusiasm. Here, he said, was a chance "to create a garden out of nothing".

Having obtained permission (necessary in a conservation area) to cut back the overgrown trees, Sir Brian took them down to about six feet — all except two towards the end of the garden whose grey boles he stripped bare, leaving only a few strongly growing upper branches. The view from the house, framed

In this way he contrived "the most difficult object of small gardens — privacy".

The garden faces north with a pronounced downward slope, not the ideal gardening aspect perhaps, but good for a painter. "It offers changes of light throughout the day, and the sun is never in your eyes." Its interior is full of juxtapositions: path and shrub, urn and foliage, trees of different kinds and shapes. "I look on topiary and shrubs as pieces of

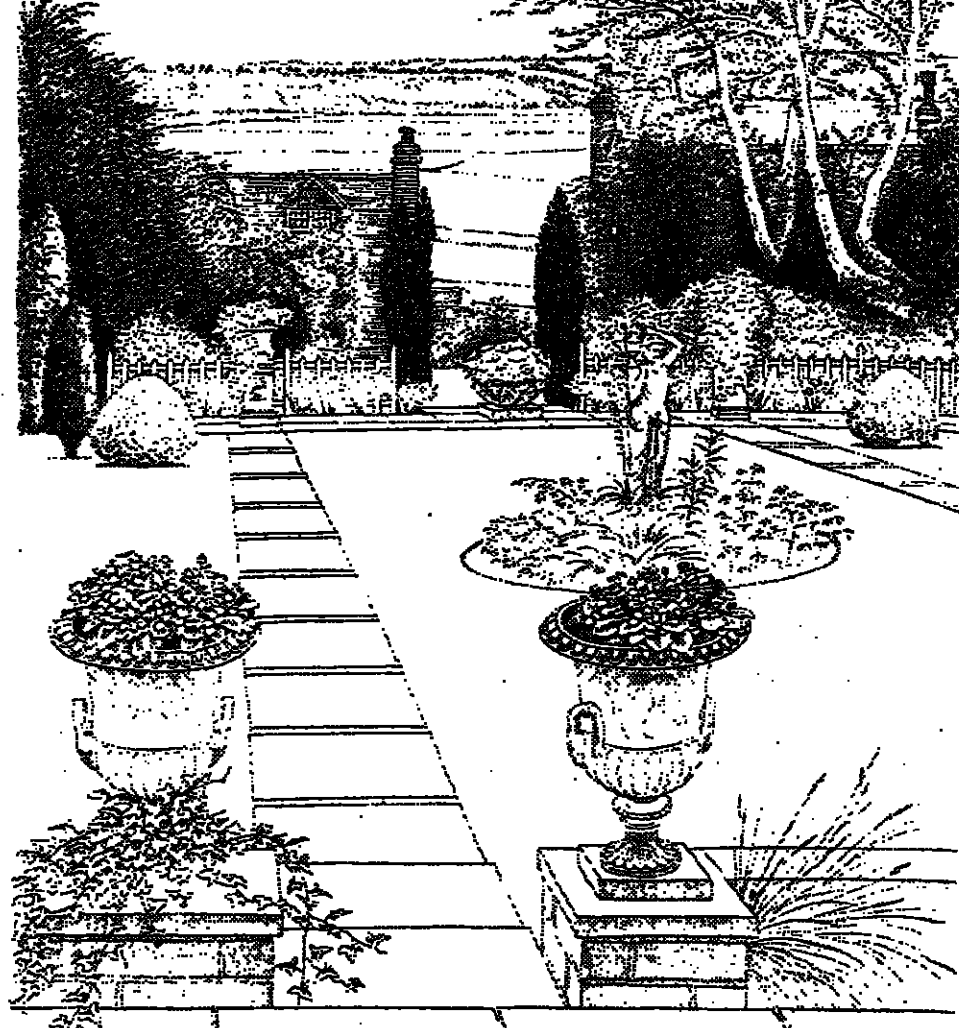
four Japanese maples which are meant to make dainty humps may, in the teeth of the Winchelsea winds, disappoint their owner.

Sir Brian is not fond of conifers, but "always plants a deciduous tree between you and the conifer", and they can block out eyesores or create background for more interesting foliage. He "can't stand" herbaceous borders, preferring "to plant things which will stay put — using trees and shrubs is like painting a picture".

According to this rule, the long bed to the west has only small patches of flowering plants to light up the spaces between the trees and shrubs. There is a sturdy seven-foot false cypress (which took five men to transplant), a glossy large-leaved fuchsia, the maple Drummondii with its delicate cream-marked leaves, and a round cryptomeria, its lacy foliage reddening for the autumn.

In a garden of this kind there has to be a role for golden foliage. Most unusual is a privet, grown as a standard: a golden ball on a long stem. Sir Brian made it himself, buying a golden privet and cutting off the lower branches each year (copying one which took his fancy at Scotney Castle) until at six years old it is his "pride and joy".

Further down the garden is the golden cliché of our era, but no less dramatic for that, the false acacia. Frisia, luminous in its tender, grape-like foliage. This part of the garden is marked by a simple painted picket fence. "I've always liked white fences but it was too strong, so I mixed up this grey colour and



The view from the house, framed by the floating foliage, looks like a Batsford dust-jacket

now even the white roses look very well against it."

Trees of curious form make further focal points around the garden: the silvery, willow-leaved pair; a slim, dark column of fastigate yew (rescued from near-death in a nursery corner), clipped round

dels of box, and the stiffly weeping pussywillow, Kilmarnock, which in spring makes a twiggy bird-cage over the hyacinths planted beneath.

At his age, Sir Brian wanted "an instant garden", and it is scarcely credible that it has been conjured up in less than a

year, with only the end section beyond the grey pallisade yet to be worked. Will Sir Brian then allow himself to drowse quietly among his plants — or like a medieval scribe will he erase his former work to fill the parchment with a new design?

## Prepare for a fine show

- Dead-head plants frequently; if you give up now, you will miss the fine show that many herbaceous plants can continue to give well into the autumn.
- Sow winter lettuces which will overwinter under a frame and will be ready for spring eating.
- Prune espaliers, cordons and fan-trained apples, pears and acid cherries without delay, if you have not already done so.
- Tie in young shoots of climbing and rambling roses, dead-heading branches normally out of reach.

## WEEKEND TIPS

- Clean and disinfect the greenhouse or sheds in which plants are to be kept, before the weather turns chilly and you need to bring in the plants.
- Take onions into storage as soon as possible after they have ripened. Watch out for softness or rot and use at once those onions which show any sign of damage.
- Cut down raspberry canes which have fruited and thin and tie in new ones.



Blickling Hall, Norfolk: open to the public until the end of October (see Gardens to Visit), it boasts fine gardens, orangery, parkland and a lake

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Size	Sale price	Size	Sale price
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12 x 8	\$ 799.37	20 x 12	\$130.00
12 x 8	\$ 799.37	20 x 14	\$174.25
12 x 8	\$ 801.20	24 x 10	\$116.62
12 x 12	\$ 901.31	24 x 10	\$120.00
12 x 12	\$ 901.31	24 x 12	\$161.25
12 x 12	\$ 901.31	24 x 14	\$174.25
12 x 12	\$ 901.31	24 x 16	\$174.25
12 x 12	\$ 901.31	24 x 18	\$271.20
12 x 12	\$ 901.31	24 x 20	\$271.20
12 x 12	\$ 901.31	24 x 22	\$372.22
12 x 12	\$ 901.31	24 x 24	\$372.22



# Audacity and the Adams

Yorkshire's bracing air heightens the senses to enjoy the splendours of Harwood House, says Nigel Andrew

The first thing you see when you walk into the entrance hall of Harwood House comes as something of a shock. Epstein's "Adam" is certainly, as the present Earl describes it, "a dominating piece of work." Hewn from a single colossal block of alabaster, it is a massive, unignorable cuboid presence, head thrown back, torso thrust out in the direction of the music room to your right.

The tour of the state rooms, however, takes you to the left. It is only when you finally emerge from the music room that you see Adam "full frontal", more than adequately equipped to be the grandfather of us all.

One can only admire the seventh ear's audacity in placing him in the middle of this splendid hall, designed by his namesake Robert Adam. Here he stands, surrounded by porphyry-painted columns and Roman arches, staring up at one of Harwood's many multi-coloured, exquisitely wrought ceilings.

The hall is in fact the only room in which it was designed by the house's architect, John Carr of York. When Edwin Lascelles, inheriting his father's fortune, set about building himself a house of fitting grandeur, he turned to this local architect of well-proven talent. But, eager to avoid any whiff of the provincial, he promptly called in the 30-year-old Adam to design the interior in the height of neoclassical fashion. In no time the coming man had "ticked it up" so as to dazzle the eyes of the square. His work at Harwood has dazzled the eyes of many generations since. Though the house has

undergone some alteration over the years, in essence it remains a triumph of creative collaboration between Adam and England's greatest furniture designer, Thomas Chippendale, assisted by the best craftsmen of their time.

However, in Edwin Lascelles, they had a canny Yorkshireman to deal with. "Let us do everything properly and well, *mais pas trop*," he counselled Adam, restraining him from any extravagance. As for Chippendale, Lascelles nearly lost his services altogether by his slowness in paying bills. After eight years' work, the furniture maker was owed nearly £7,000 — no small sum in 1777.

But the work was finally done, and the results were stunningly good. Chippendale was here working at the full stretch of his genius — despite the tardy payment — and showing himself fully the equal of Adam in his mastery of neoclassical design. Room after room contains prize specimens of his best work, which has a good claim to be the best English furniture ever made.

A vast glittering space, the gallery is the climax of the Adam-Chippendale creation. Almost a tripe cube in shape, it has a sumptuous geometrical ceiling by Adam, adorned with mythological paintings. The swags over the heavy taffeta curtains here are a demonstration of Chippendale's genius, for they are in fact carved in wood. It is so well done that even on a second look they still deceive the eye.

The gallery, naturally, is hung with paintings — a tremendous sequence of portraits by the likes of Reynolds, Romney, Gainsborough and Lawrence. But



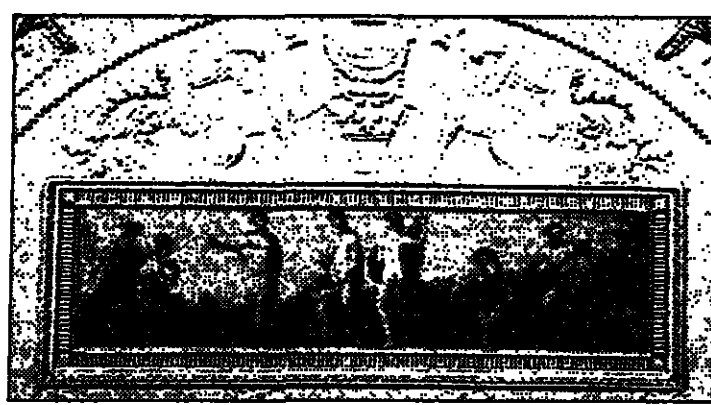
Splendid front: a view of Harwood House (above), and (below) one of Harwood's many multi-coloured, intricately worked ceilings

Harwood also has an extraordinary collection of Italian paintings, most of which came into the family late, as the surprising result of a chance encounter in a London club.

Lord Lascelles, the heir to the fifth earl, on leave from the Grenadier Guards in 1916, happened to bump into his great uncle, the eccentric and reclusive Marquis of Clanricarde. A few months later, the marquis died, and to his amazement Lord Lascelles found he had left him most of his fortune of £2,500,000 and his impressive collection of paintings.

This Lord Lascelles, incidentally, followed a family tradition in getting wounded on Waterloo Day. The third earl started it at the battle itself, then Lord L exactly 100 years later, and finally the present earl, also in the Grenadier Guards, acquired his Second World War injury on June 18.

Harwood can truly call itself "the Yorkshire treasure house". Among much else, it has a



stupendous collection of Sévres and Chinese porcelain, and major paintings by Turner and Girtin and a dozen other big names. And, of course, there are frequent reminders of the royal connection, for as the son of the late Princess Royal, daughter of George V, the present Earl of Harwood is a cousin to the Queen.

From the outside the house suffers from the alterations

wrought by Charles Barry in the 1840s; Carr's ideal palatial mansion was disguised by the building of a heavy Italianate balustrade, and the addition of an extra storey and a very Victorian parlour. However, Capability Brown's beautiful park survives, with its great lake and artfully natural planting of trees, affording a succession of breathtaking views from the house.

The grounds now accommodate a splendid bird garden, stretching down to the lakeside, and a particularly enterprising tropical house, where all manner of exotic creatures can be seen in their natural habitat. Miniature horses and immense numbers of geese share the ample grazing by the lake, and among the trees you can still discover a surviving medieval church.

Right in the middle of the park is a terrace fountain dominated by another huge modern statue. This is a nine-foot bronze "Orpheus" by Astrid Zydower, which stretches wide its arms and proudly displays to Capability Brown's park endowments almost the equal of Epstein's virile Adam. It must be the Yorkshire air.

● Harwood House near Leeds (on the A61) is open daily until the end of October (0532 886225). Grounds and bird garden open at 10am, house at 11am. Closes 5.30pm. Inclusive admission £3.85, children £1.80, OAPs £3.20.

## EVENTS

**BRASS ON THE GRASS:** The Lingdale silver band and the York Railway Institute band play a selection of music of stage and screen and popular classics. Whitley Abbey, North Yorkshire (further information 0947 803568). Tomorrow from 2.30pm. Adult £1.50, child 50p.

**MORETON-IN-MARSH SHOW:** Typical Heart of England country show with heavy horses, sheepdog demonstration, pet lamb and pony competition, open terrier racing and falconry. Also the National Show of Pot Herefords, goats, pigeons, rare breeds, produce, flowers and crafts. Children's entertainment, bands, and refreshments. Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire. Today 7.30am onwards. Adult £2.50, child £1, parking £3.

**CONSERVATION CENTRE OPEN DAY:** An opportunity for visitors to see the work carried out by forest conservationists. Pond dipping 10.30am and 2.30pm, guided walks 11.15am and 3.15pm. Exhibitions and light refreshments. Epping Forest Conservation Centre, High Beach, Loughton, Essex (01-508 7714). Today 10am-5pm. Free.

**LONDON RIVER FESTIVAL, GREAT RIVER RACE AND THAMES PAGEANT:** Spectacular 17-mile handicap race from Richmond to Tower Bridge with Viking longboats, Chinese dragon boats, a Canadian sea canoe, British whalers, Cornish pilot gigs and skiffs. Followed by Thames river pageant and thereafter weekend of sport and entertainment on the Isle of Dogs. Also, Thamesday celebrations — waterside events and fireworks — at the South Bank Centre today. Race: 8am from Marble Hill House, Richmond — first arrival expected Tower Bridge 11.30am. Thereafter Thamesday until dusk, other events Isle of Dogs today and tomorrow. Free.

**NOTTINGHAM CITY SHOW:** Family entertainment for all ages with many arena events including motor-cycle and sheepdog displays, bands, clowns. Also flower and vegetable show, rural crafts, heavy horses, rare breeds. Wollaton Hall open all day, admission free. Wollaton Park, Nottingham. Tomorrow 8am-6pm. Adult £2, child £1. Car park free.

**BEAMISH STEAM AND COMMERCIAL VEHICLE DAY:** Ten traction engines, stationary steam engines, the museum's three steam locomotives, a fairground organ, 50 old commercial vehicles and some spectacular showmen's engines. Beamish North of England Museum, Stanley, Co Durham (0207 231811). Tomorrow noon-6pm. £3.30 adult, £2.30 children, under-fives free.

Judy Froshang

## European Law Report

## Luxembourg

# Student grants outside EEC Treaty except to cover tuition fees

Lair v Universität Hannover

Case 39/86

Before Lord Mackenzie Stuart, President and Judges J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias, T. Koopmans, U. Everling, K. Behrmann, Y. Galmot, C. N. Kakouris, R. Joliet, T. F. O'Higgins and F. A. Schockweiler Advocate-General Sir Gordon Slynn (Opinion September 17, 1987) (Judgment June 21)

Financial assistance given to students for maintenance and training fell, in principle, outside the scope of article 7 of the EEC Treaty except to the extent to which such assistance was intended to cover registration or tuition fees.

Miss Lair was a French national who had lived since January 1979 in the Federal Republic of Germany where she had worked continuously until June 1981. Between July 1981 and September 1984 she alternated between periods of unemployment and of retraining separated by short periods of employment. Since October 1984 she had undertaken university studies in Romance and Germanic language and literature.

Under the *Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz* (law on financial assistance for training), financial assistance for university studies might be given to certain categories of foreigners, in particular those who had lived in Germany and had been in regular employment there for at least five years before the beginning of the course. That did not apply to German nationals.

Financial assistance was granted for "maintenance and for training" and was fixed at a flat rate without distinction between the needs of maintenance and those of training. The financial assistance applied for by Miss Lair was refused by the university on the ground that she did not fulfil the precondition for the award of such grants: prior employment in the Federal Republic of Germany for at least five years.

The Verwaltungsgericht (administrative court), Hannover, before which Miss Lair challenged that decision stayed the proceedings to the Court of Justice of the European Communities for a preliminary ruling.

In its judgment the European Court of Justice held as follows: I Article 7 of the EEC Treaty

This question sought in essence to establish whether the first paragraph of article 7 of the EEC Treaty was applicable to a grant for maintenance and training awarded by a member state to its own nationals with a view to the pursuit of university studies.

In Case 283/83 *Gravier v Ville de Liège* ([1985] ECR 606) the Court had ruled, on the one hand, that unequal treatment based on nationality was to be

regarded as discrimination prohibited by article 7 of the EEC Treaty if it fell within the scope of that article on the other, that conditions for access to vocational training fell within the scope of that Treaty.

On the other hand, the Court did not express a view in that judgment as to whether a national of another member state was entitled to assistance given by a member state to its own nationals when undertaking such studies.

It was only to the extent to which assistance of that kind was intended to cover registration or other fees, in particular tuition fees charged for access to education, that, by virtue of the judgment in *Gravier*, it fell as relating to conditions of access to vocational training, within the scope of the EEC Treaty.

Non-national student not entitled to maintenance grant by virtue only of pre-university employment

Brown v Secretary of State for Scotland

Case 197/86

Before Lord Mackenzie Stuart, President and Judges J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias, T. Koopmans, U. Everling, K. Behrmann, Y. Galmot, C. N. Kakouris, R. Joliet, T. F. O'Higgins and F. A. Schockweiler Advocate-General Sir Gordon Slynn (Opinion September 17, 1987) (Judgment June 21)

A national of a member state was not entitled to a maintenance grant for the purpose of pursuing studies in another member state by virtue of his status as a worker where it was established that he acquired that status exclusively as a result of his being accepted for admission to university to undertake those studies.

Steven Brown had dual French and British nationality. He lived in France until taking his *baccalauréat* and subsequently, at the beginning of 1984, he went to the United Kingdom where he worked for Ferranti in Edinburgh from January 9 to September 14, 1984. His employment was described in the order for reference as being "pre-university industrial training". In October 1984 he commenced studies leading to a degree in electrical engineering at Cambridge.

The Scottish Education Department (SED) refused, on various grounds based on national law, to award Mr Brown a student's allowance comprising, on the one hand, a maintenance grant, the amount of which was dependent upon the income of his parents and, on the other hand, direct payment of the university fees by the SED, irrespective of the income of the student or of his parents.

Mr Brown accepted that he

had no entitlement under the national regulations. Nevertheless, he brought an action against the SED's refusal claiming that he was entitled to the award of an allowance under Community law by virtue of article 7 of the EEC Treaty or of the provisions of Regulation No 1612/68 of the Council of October 15, 1968 on freedom of movement for workers within the Community (OJ, English Special Edition 1968(I), p.475).

The Court of Session, Scotland, stayed the proceedings and referred a number of questions to the Court of Justice of the European Communities for a preliminary ruling. In its judgment the European Court of Justice held as follows: First question

By its first question the national court wished to establish whether university studies of the kind described in the order for reference constituted vocational training within the scope of the EEC Treaty.

As the Court had ruled in *Gravier*, the question of vocational training was to be determined by reference to the nature of the activity and whether it was intended to improve the person's knowledge rather than prepare themselves for an occupation.

However, the fact that a teaching establishment provided a measure of vocational training was not sufficient to enable it to be regarded as a

national of another member state and who had availed himself of his right of freedom of movement thereby enjoyed the same entitlement as national workers to all advantages designed to enable the latter to improve their vocational skills and to achieve social advancement.

Financial assistance of the kind at issue, granted for a student's maintenance and training was, in particular from the worker's point of view, particularly conducive to vocational training and the attainment of social advancement.

Moreover, the grant and repayment of the associated benefits were linked, under national law, to the resources available to the person concerned and therefore were

dependent upon social criteria. It followed that financial assistance of that kind constituted a social advantage within the meaning of article 7(2) of Regulation No 1612/68.

(b) Concept of worker

Neither the terms of article 7(2) of Regulation No 1612/68 nor those of article 48 or 49 of the EEC Treaty gave a specific answer to the question whether a migrant worker who had interrupted his employment in the host state in order to undertake university studies there leading to a professional qualification was to be regarded as having retained his status as a migrant worker within the meaning of article 7.

However, under article 49(3)(d) of the EEC Treaty migrant workers were entitled to

remain in the territory of a member state after having been employed in that state. That provision, and various regulations and directives which gave effect to that right indicated that the rights guaranteed to migrant workers did not necessarily depend upon an existing or continuing employment relationship.

Thus, certain rights associated with the status of workers were guaranteed to migrant workers even if they were no longer in employment.

In the context of financial assistance for university education, such a link between the status of worker and financial assistance awarded for maintenance and training with a view to the pursuit of university studies nevertheless pre-

supposed continuity between the previous employment and the studies subsequently undertaken, in as much as there had to be a link between the purpose of the studies and the previous employment.

That condition of continuity could not, however, be applied to a migrant worker who had become unemployed against his will and was obliged as a result of the situation on the employment market to undergo vocational training with a view to transferring to another field of activity.

(c) Minimum period of work

A student who was a national of another member state could claim entitlement to financial assistance for university training only in his capacity as a worker within the meaning of article 48 of the EEC Treaty and Regulation No 1612/68.

It was apparent from previous decisions of the Court that the concept of worker had a Community meaning and it could not be defined according to criteria laid down by national legislation.

Consequently, member states could not unilaterally make the grant of the social advantages provided for in article 7(2) of Regulation No 1612/68 conditional upon a particular period of employment.

On those grounds the European Court ruled:

1 At the present stage of development of Community law the first paragraph of article 7 of the EEC Treaty applied to financial assistance for maintenance and for training, awarded by a member state to its nationals with a view to the pursuit of university studies only to the extent to which that assistance was intended to cover registration or other fees, in particular tuition fees charged for access to education.

2 Financial assistance for maintenance and for training awarded with a view to the pursuit of university studies leading to a professional qualification constituted a social advantage within the meaning of article 7(2) of Regulation No 1612/68.

3 A national of another member state who had undertaken university studies in the host state leading to a professional qualification, after having engaged in an occupation in that state, was to be regarded as having retained his status as a worker, being entitled, as such, to the benefit of article 7(2) of Regulation No 1612/68 provided that there was a link between the previous occupation and the studies in question.

4 Entitlement to the same social advantages, within the meaning of article 7(2) of Regulation No 1612/68, could not be subject to the condition imposed by the host member state of prior completion of a minimum period of employment within the territory of that state.

Consequently, member states could not unilaterally make the grant of the social advantages provided for in article 7(2) of Regulation No 1612/68 conditional upon a particular period of employment.

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Consequently, member states could not unilaterally make the grant of the social advantages provided for in article 7(2) of Regulation No 1612/68 conditional upon a particular period of employment.

On those grounds the European Court ruled:

1 University studies which prepared for a qualification for a particular profession, trade or employment or which provided the necessary training and skills for such a profession, trade or

employment constituted vocational training. Universities were not to be regarded as "vocational schools" within the meaning of article 7(3) of Regulation No 1612/68.

2 The payment by a member state to or on behalf of students of tuition fees charged by a university fell within the scope of the EEC Treaty for the purposes of article 7 thereof, but the payment of grants for students' maintenance did not.

3 A national of another member state who entered into an employment relationship in the host state for a period of eight months with a view to subsequently undertaking university studies there in the same field of activity and who would not have been employed by his employer if he had not already been accepted for admission to university was to be regarded as a worker within the meaning of article 7(2) of Regulation No 1612/68.

4 A worker who was a national of another member state and who entered into an employment relationship for a period of eight months with a view to subsequently undertaking studies in the host state and who would not have been employed by his employer if he had not already been accepted for admission to university was to be regarded as a worker within the meaning of article 7(2) of Regulation No 1612/68.

As the Court had ruled in *Lair* a grant awarded for maintenance and training with a view to the pursuit of university studies leading to a professional qualification constituted a social advantage within the meaning of article 7(2) of Regulation No 1612/68.

In the same judgment, the Court ruled that a national of another member state who had undertaken university studies in the host state leading to a professional qualification, after having engaged in an occupation in that state, was to be regarded as having retained his status as a worker, being entitled, as such, to the benefit of article 7(2) of Regulation No 1612/68.

It was relevant to the answer to be given to the fifth question that the petitioner was born after his parents had ceased to work and reside in the UK. As a result, he never had, in the UK, the status of a member of a worker's family.

The fifth recital in the preamble to Regulation No 1612/68 indicated that that regulation was intended to establish freedom of movement for workers by, *inter alia*, eliminating obstacles to the mobility of workers, in particular by ensuring the right to be joined by his family and the conditions for the integration of his family into the host country.

It followed that article 12 of the regulation was to be interpreted as meaning that it granted rights only to a child who had lived with his parents or either one of them in a member state while at least one of his parents resided there as a worker. It could not therefore create rights for the benefit of a worker's child who was born after the worker ceased to work and to reside in the host state.

On those grounds, the Court of Justice of the European Communities ruled:

1 University studies which prepared for a qualification for a particular profession, trade or employment or which provided the necessary training and skills for such a profession, trade or

employment constituted vocational training. Universities were not to be regarded as "vocational schools" within the meaning of article 7(3) of Regulation No 1612/68.

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4 A worker who was a national of another member state and who entered into an employment relationship for a period of eight months with a view to subsequently undertaking studies in the host state and who would not have been employed by his employer if he had not already been accepted for admission to university was to be regarded as a worker within the meaning of article 7(2) of Regulation No 1612/68.

5 A child of a national of one member state who resided in the territory of another member state might not claim the benefit of article 12 of Regulation No 1612/68 where his parent, who no longer resided in the host state, last resided there as a worker before the birth of the child.

Consequently, member states could not unilaterally make the grant of the social advantages provided for in article 7(2) of Regulation No 1612/68 conditional upon a particular period of employment.

On those grounds the European Court ruled:

1 University studies which prepared for a qualification for a particular profession, trade or employment or which provided the necessary training and skills for such a profession, trade or

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As the Court had ruled in *Lair* a grant awarded for maintenance and training with a view to the pursuit of university studies leading to a professional qualification constituted a social advantage within the meaning of article 7(2) of Regulation No 1612/68.

In the same judgment, the Court ruled that a national of another member state who had undertaken university studies in the host state leading to a professional qualification, after having engaged in an occupation in that state, was to be regarded as having retained his status as a worker, being entitled, as such, to the benefit of article 7(2) of Regulation No 1612/68.

It was relevant to the answer to be given to the fifth question that the petitioner was born after his parents had ceased to work and reside in the UK. As a result, he never had, in the UK, the status of a member of a worker's family.

The fifth recital in the preamble to Regulation No 1612/68 indicated that that regulation was intended to establish freedom of movement for workers by, *inter alia*, eliminating obstacles to the mobility of workers, in particular by ensuring the right to be joined by his family and the conditions for the integration of his family into the host country.

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On those grounds, the Court of Justice of the European Communities ruled:

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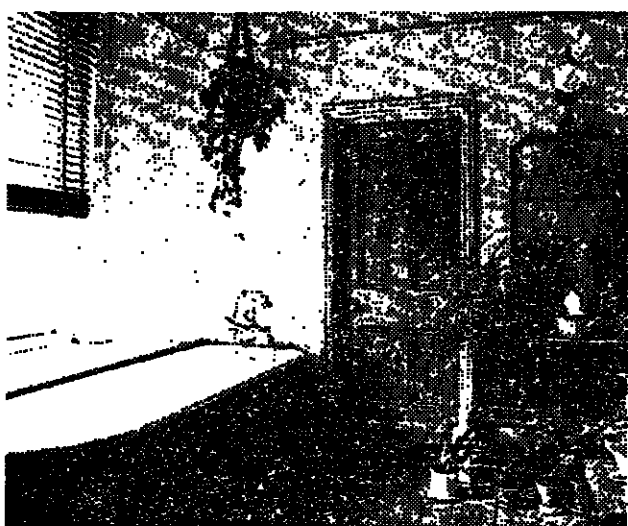
## PROPERTY

What do today's buyers want? Christopher Warman finds new demands inside and outside

## The essential bathrooms



Luxury: en suite bathroom in Barratt's smarter houses in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire



House thrown in for £190,000

The idea that the bathroom can help to sell the house is one thing — the use of a bath to sell an older house is another. The London agents Farrar Stead & Glyn are none the less advertising a house thus: "Noel Coward's bath is for sale in Clapham for £190,000, although the price does include a five-bedroom house."

The bath, left, originally came from Coward's house in Belgravia, bought by the present owner of the Clapham house. It will give the new owner the chance to sing *Mad Dogs and Englishmen* in the bath with a deeper insight.

Mock Tudor or neo-Georgian may remain the most popular styles for new houses after many years of variation and experimentation, but inside those houses things are changing. Outside, too, the house-building industry is responding to demand that is no longer seeking modernization so much as what they describe as traditionalization — the replacement of the original look of the house.

One of the most discernible trends for the outside of the house is the return of the chimney.

The many builders now bringing back the clay chimney pot, which faded from the skyline in the early 1970s, include CALA Homes, which is launching a new range of 40 house styles with that very feature to the fore.

The chimney was forced into redundancy as the consumer eschewed open fireplaces in favour of gas and electric central heating, but now its revival is under way as house-buyers come once again to appreciate traditional features such as the open hearth.

"Apart from the purely visual appeal of the traditional clay chimney, there are also practical reasons for the reintroduction of the chimney pot," Steve Rosier, managing director of CALA Homes, explains. "House-buyers want open fireplaces, and clay pipes produce the best flue draughts."

The other noticeable change in their house styles is the incorporation of much higher pitched roofs. The new roofs are pitched at about 40 degrees compared with the previous 25, both giving a steeper and more traditional look and opening up a much larger void for the potential return of the attic.

Inside, the main change is to the bathroom. For many years the kitchen has been the key room in the house, but now a fully fitted kitchen is taken for granted.

Bathrooms are a different matter. At the very top of the

housing market, two bathrooms have been accepted as essential for some time, but this is becoming recognized widely for all family homes.

Prowing Homes recently commissioned a research survey in the South of England which showed that most people regard two bathrooms as essential, while many buyers of more expensive new homes demand three. Two bathrooms, even if one contains a shower rather than a bath, are needed, mainly to cope with the morning rush.

A decade or two ago, when there were more blue-collar workers who left home early and their wives remained at home all day, the use of the bathroom was spread over a long period.

Today, more workers are in office jobs and more wives work, concentrating bathroom use in a shorter period.

According to Terry Royden, group managing director, we are moving towards the day when every bedroom in a new home will have its own en suite bathroom, providing the same standard of comfort as a modern hotel.

He says: "It is possible to incorporate this facility at the design stage in a new home, but extremely difficult to accomplish with an older house."

"The bathroom has become a much more important room in recent years, and the results of this latest research confirms that it will become increasingly important."

Barratt, one of Britain's biggest house-builders, which in the past five years have concentrated on the upper strata of the market, have come to the same conclusion. For Barratt it is not only the number of bathrooms that is important, but also the quality and style.

In some of Barratt's new developments the bathrooms have whirlpool baths, bidets, electronic control panels instead of taps, and sun-beds over the bath, turning the bathroom into a solarium. Barratt's latest house styles also feature steam rooms, saunas and see-through fire-

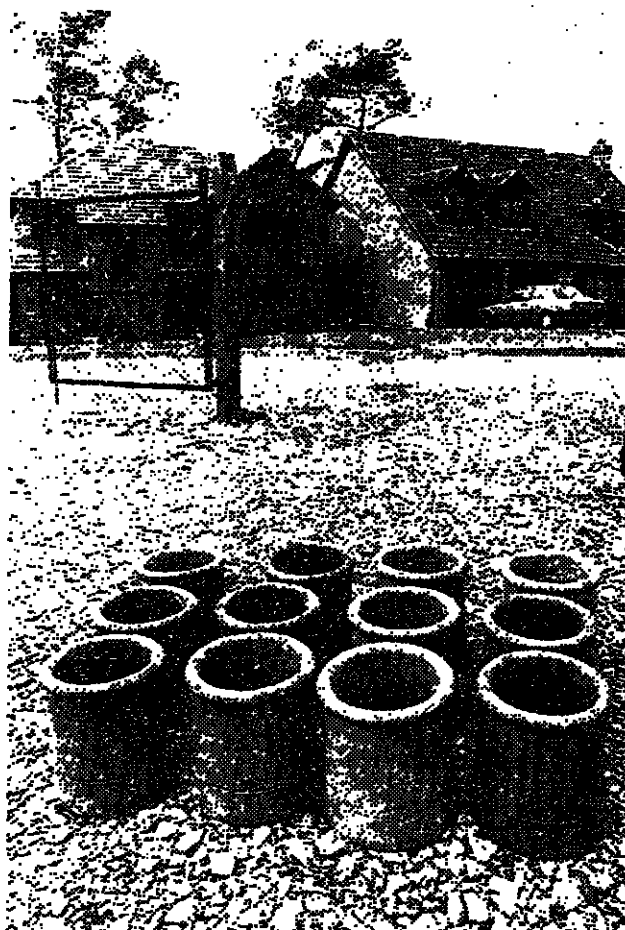
places linking them to the bedroom.

The company's group architect David Anderson sees today's house-buyers as considerably more discerning than their counterparts in the 1950s and 1960s.

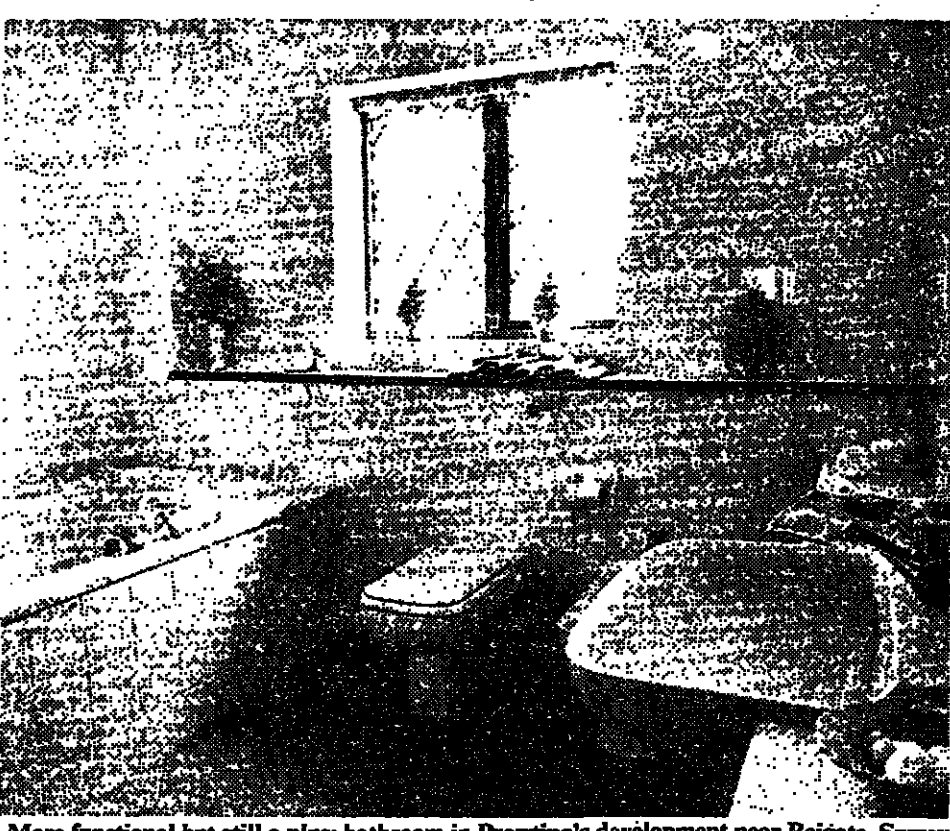
"What was 'modern' then is now regarded as inadequate," he says. "What was 'luxury' then is now a necessity. It is now the norm for new houses to have more bathroom facilities than were ever envisaged when older houses were built."

The group is putting en suite bathrooms as well as principal bathrooms into more and more of its houses, apartments and bungalows.

More than 60 per cent of its Premier collection range of properties, named at about the time Margaret Thatcher bought a Barratt house in Dulwich, south-east London, have more than one bathroom, and three-quarters have a practical downstairs cloakroom.



In favour: chimney pots to be delivered to the fashionable



More functional but still a plus: bathroom in Prowing's development near Reigate, Surrey

## REFRESHINGLY GOOD SHOWERS

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Triton showers are easy to install and safe for all the family to use with

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Triton's full flowing shower performance makes each day more enjoyable. No wonder they are Britain's favourite.

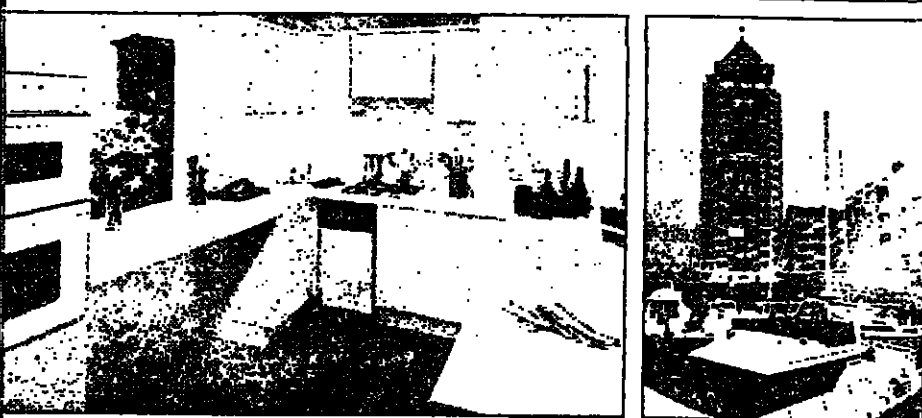
*Refreshingly good to live with.*

Available from all good Builder's Merchants, DIY Stores, Bathroom Specialists, Department Stores, Mail Order Catalogues, Electrical Wholesalers and Electricity Boards. Triton offer a full range of showers from around £50 to around £200. For full performance details and necessary site requirements, see product pack or brochure.

Triton Plc. Triton House, Weddington Industrial Estate, Nuneaton, CV10 0AG

## THE QUADRANGLE

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## PROPERTY

# The toughest client of them all

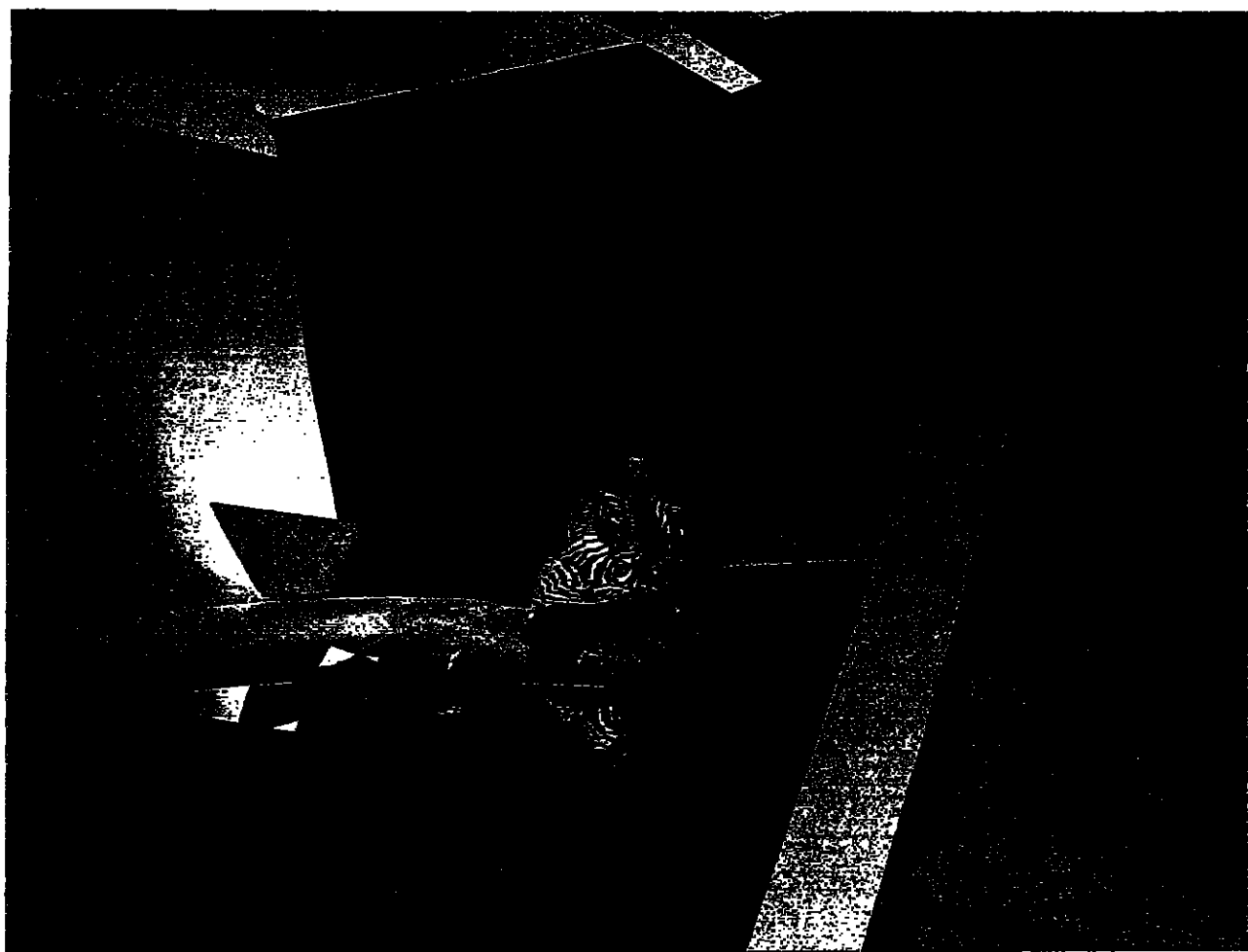
Do the commercial styles of designers reveal themselves in their own homes? Rachel Warren and photographer Guglielmo Galvin called on six prominent London-based architects, designers and style-merchants to see what happened when they became customers to themselves



Rodney Fitch, of the design consultants Fitch & Co, did his London house-hunting by making a list of 11 buildings in his favourite area that he felt could be home. His criteria were size (he and wife Janet have four daughters and one son); style (large Victorian villa); a small manageable garden; and it had to be a building "on which I could exert some influence and impose my character". When his local estate agent finally found an owner who would sell, Fitch himself negotiated the deal, in 1985, from a telephone box in Arizona. He bought the villa, which has four levels and so many rooms that he has never counted them, for around £420,000 from Sir Denys Lasdun, creator of the South Bank, who had "exercised his own approach to architecture" within. During the next year, he researched the mid-Victorian period, and re-furbished the house, which was built in 1852, with mouldings, fireplaces and a staircase that were historically appropriate. Meanwhile...



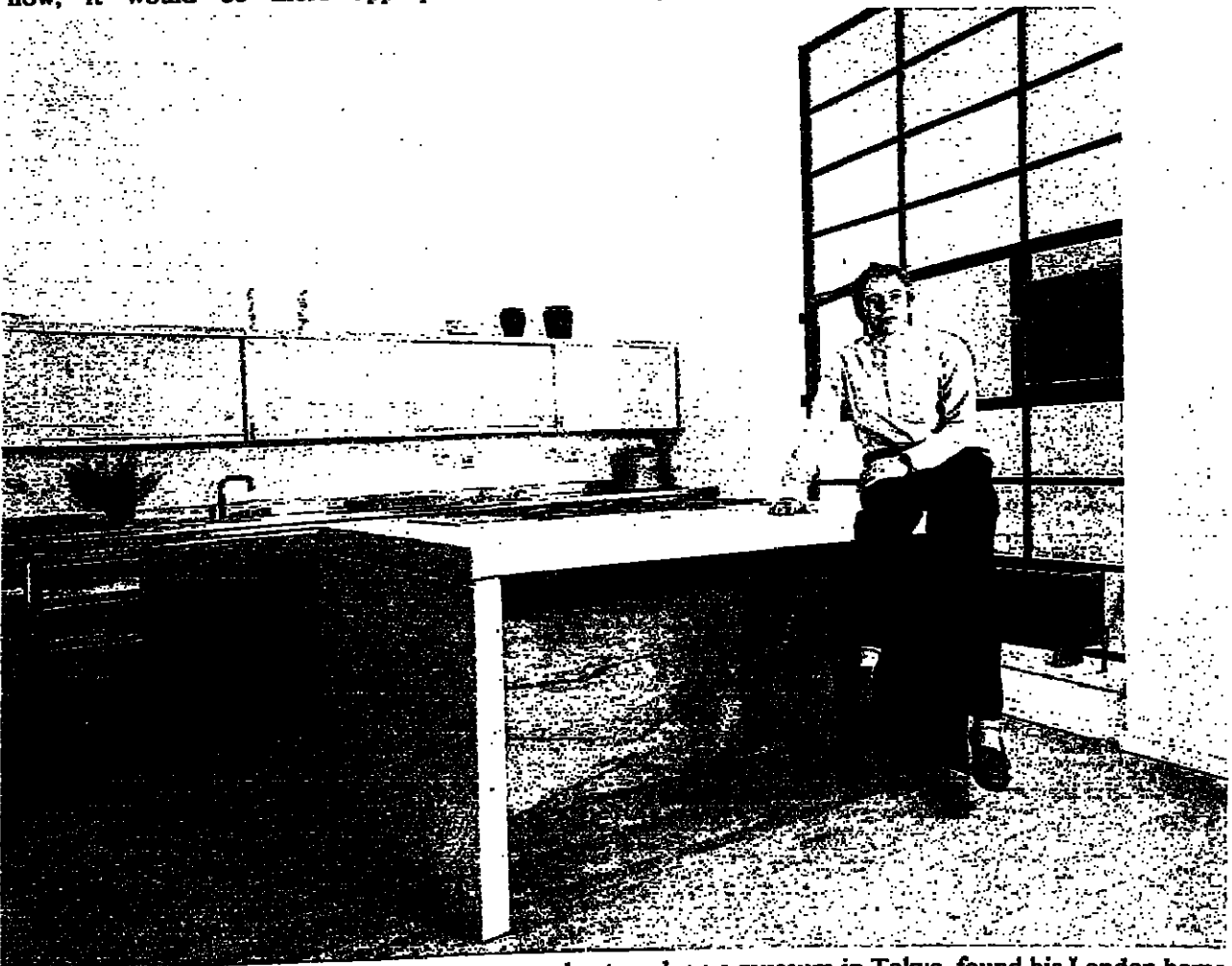
... Janet Fitch, his wife, who runs a designer clothes shop that stocks jewellery and accessories in the West End, worked closely with him. "She has exquisite taste. If Janet doesn't like something there is probably something wrong with it," he says. "Ninety nine per cent of the time we agree." From their bedroom they can walk on to the terrace they created, which features a balustrade which formerly graced Lillie Langtry's home, they overlook cherry trees which blossom pink and white in the spring. The study is essentially Rodney's room, with its oak library shelves topped by busts of ancients and leather-topped desk above which hang favourite cricket cartoons, designs of Greyhound buses, the Penn Railway by Locwy and photos of his family. "The whole interior has been changed yet the house looks as if it has always been like this," he says. "That's what I like. I wouldn't want a home that looks like my office or anything that I might design."



Zaha Hadid, who was born in Baghdad and is currently exhibiting at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, has been dubbed "a deconstructionist"; she lives in a most traditional London home — a tiny mews house which she has rented since student days. "I like having access to the street. I can rush out and in which is pleasant," she says. "At first I felt claustrophobic here. But now I have a vast amount of space in my office — three converted classrooms of a Victorian school. Because I spend a lot of time there when I am in London that is some compensation." Her space-age couch — a prototype for a house she designed in The Boltons — and the angles of blue and white paint on the walls, give her small living room a dynamism it would never otherwise possess. But, she says, "ideally, I would like to live in a large modern building or perhaps, now, it would be more appropriate to have my office and home in the same building."



John McAslam, who worked with the architect Richard Rogers and is now part of the up and coming practice of Troughton/McAslam, and his American wife Dava, who wanted "a family house to live in for the conceivable future", bought their Kensington home two years ago and moved in with their baby daughter, Hannah, last year when renovations and an extra floor on top had been completed. They maximized the space by removing walls; the main living area now runs the 22ft length of the house. They are currently extending the lower-ground floor kitchen and breakfast area with a conservatory into the garden. MacAslam supervised the conversion, working with the builders on a day-to-day basis. But he did not plan this "as a showcase of modern architecture. It had to be practical and domestic. But it is similar in spirit to a lot of our work — clean and white and not traditional. And it doesn't have any empty, redundant rooms, so we're using all the space."



David Chipperfield, a modernist architect currently at work on a museum in Tokyo, found his London home four years ago after a systematic search. "I had to look at late-Victorian stucco buildings to get the maximum space on the minimum of floors." He bought the ground floor and undeveloped basement of a derelict house and proceeded to reconstruct them. He opened up the ground floor to create a studio at the back and large living room at the front, separated from the open-plan kitchen by a clever sycamore block concealing fridge, oven and cupboards. He covered the ground floor with light maple and built in huge windows to maximize the light. Downstairs he built three bedrooms and two bathrooms which lead off a concrete corridor with light. "I like this now because it has bold lines, natural materials and clean, big spaces that have a robustness. There is also the potential to use all the rooms in slightly different ways."



Ron Arad, the former architect, now turned furniture designer, spent two years looking for the London home he moved into a few months ago. He wanted somewhere within the small catchment area of a local primary school for daughter Lail, who is four and a half years old. He also wanted a largely un-modernized space at an affordable price. "It is very difficult to find a place before the developers do. They snap up everything, subdivide it into tiny flats and then make you pay for features that you never wanted." His own ideas are taking form. Unnecessary doors will disappear. Traditional windows will be replaced with larger areas of glass. He may use metal wall-covering, in keeping with his idiosyncratic style, distinguished at present only by a handful of objects — a metal tree-light, a chair, a metal cone-shaped television stand or the dartboard surfaces of two coffee tables. "At present this place is a blank slate for me to work on when I get round to it."





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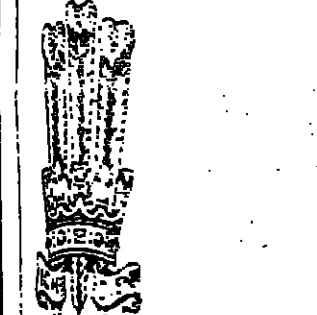
# Final plea r by Ha Electrician eve of TU

Mr Eric Hammond, who has been charged with the murder of a woman, has made his final plea to the jury at the Old Bailey today.

Mr Hammond, 41, of 10, St. James's Place, London, was charged with the murder of a woman, who was found dead in her flat in the early hours of the morning.

Mr Hammond's defence team has argued that he was not the person who killed the woman, but that he was a victim of a conspiracy.

The real Charles



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